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NECC Observer

Northern Essex
Community College

The Student Newspaper of Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, Lawrence & North Andover, Mass.



Joni Quinn photo

Fred Miller teaches his students the basics of interpersonal communications in Room C116 from 10 to 10:50 a.m.

Adjunct files second complaint against college

Fred Miller alleges discrimination on basis of age, gender and retaliation

BY JONI QUINN
Editor-in-Chief

Fred Miller, an adjunct instructor in humanities, filed his second complaint against the college on Oct. 29 on the basis of retaliation and age. His first complaint was filed on Sept. 11, 2006, with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination alleging employment discrimination on the basis of age and gender.

Miller's first complaint came when the assignments for the fall 2006 semester were handed out and he received only three classes while his adjunct colleagues in the English department both received four classes, the typical number taught by

Miller.

According to Miller, the school's argument for the assignments was that his colleagues may be more qualified to teach English classes.

"Bottom line is I teach more than just English," Miller said. "There's lots of places they could put me like Interpersonal Communications, Public Speaking or Broadcast Reporting."

Ernie Greenslade, director of public relations, said, "The college does not speak publicly regarding personnel issues."

The MCAD is the state's chief civil rights agency. The commission works to eliminate discrimination and advance the civil rights of the people of the commonwealth through law enforcement, outreach and training, according to their Web site.

Federal law and Massachusetts law both prohibit employers from discriminating against their employees based on their age. These laws mean that if a person is 40 years old or older, an employer may not take

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... I didn't plagiarize because I didn't declare ownership or credit.

- Fred Miller

any adverse employment actions against said person because of age. This includes refusing to hire; terminating, discharging, or layoff; refusing to promote; paying lower wages or giving fewer benefits, or discriminating against a person in any other term or condition of employment, according to the Web site.

According to Miller's second complaint, in his original age and

See Miller page 6

Dance show upcoming

Show gives students a unique way to express themselves

BY SARA CODAIR
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Students will get the chance to show off their moves at the 33rd student dance performance on Nov. 30 at 7 p.m.

All the dance classes and the Dance Club will be participating in the performance. Eleven of the dances are being choreographed by students from the dance composition class and three are by Lisa Leake, the new coordinator of the dance program.

"Mainly, the dance composition students self-choreograph, creating all the choreography, choosing music, costumes and lighting," said Leake.

"Dance comp is about being free, free movement and having purpose," said Sharell Hall.

Hall is majoring in dance. She wants to be a hip-hop choreographer, and is currently taking ballet and modern dance and will be participating in the upcoming performance.

"I dance because it feels good. No matter what I'm doing, I can't stop dancing," said Hall.



Sara Codair photo

Sharell Hall rehearses for the upcoming dance performance.

According to Leake, the dance students have been working very hard all semester, and each dance has taken on its own unique theme and meaning.

For example, Tracy DiJulia's "Portrait" shows an artist's relationship to his work, and how it becomes his passion and obses-

sion. This piece is also the college's submission to the American College Dance Festival.

DiJulia has choreographed two additional pieces for this performance. They depict things we see in the sky. One is

See Dancers page 9

Controversial host to speak on campus

Jay Severin will present a speech on conservatism

BY DANIEL POTOCKI
Opinion Editor

Controversial conservative talk radio host Jay Severin of 96.9 Talk FM will be making an appearance at the Haverhill campus Technology Center on Monday, Nov. 26 at 8 p.m. in room TC103A. Severin is coming to give a speech titled, "Do you really know what conservatism is?"

The fliers posted around the school have billed Severin as someone "Conservatives can agree with, Liberals can argue with, and everyone can learn from."

Severin, who makes his living as a talk radio host, is known for pushing the envelope.

"I think it is important for students at NECC to have a balanced education, something they have trouble getting at a liberal college campus," says NECC student Alex Bromberg, president of the Conservative Affairs group.

Bromberg, a frequent caller on Severin's show, gave his contact information to the show's producer, and was later contacted by Severin

who agreed to come to the campus.

Students at NECC who were read a list of his quotes and told about the event reacted differently.

"His views are extreme, but he has the right to say them," said Shai Woodman.

"It's horrible really. I know the school is trying to be fair, but this has no place in an open-minded and diverse school," said Preston Wholley.

In 2004, Severin caused a great deal of controversy when, during the call-in portion of his show, according to an article in the April 30 Boston Phoenix titled "Killing Muslims" by Dan Kennedy, he said, "My suspicion is that the majority of Muslims in the United States, who regard themselves as Muslims first and not as Americans really at all, see an American map one day where this is the United States of Islam, and not the United States of America. And I think it pays to harbor that suspicion."

The caller then went on to ask if we should not befriend the Muslim population. In response Severin said, "I have an alternative viewpoint. It's slightly different than yours. You think we should befriend them, I think we should kill them."

The article then went on to say that Severin apologized for his comments, saying that they were also

See Radio page 6

Opinion

First Amendment applies to everyone

EDITORIAL

Hopefully you have read the article about Jay Severin's upcoming visit to NECC. Much like pundit Ann Coulter, Severin has made a career out of inflammatory, even racist, remarks.

Freedom of Speech grants people the right to say what they want, and to express their ideas as best they can. There can be no middle ground. As much as the hate speech of the Ku Klux Klan or a neo-Nazi group may enrage some of us, others will be filled with anger over people calling for religion to be pulled from the public square. They all have the right to speak their mind, no matter what their beliefs are.

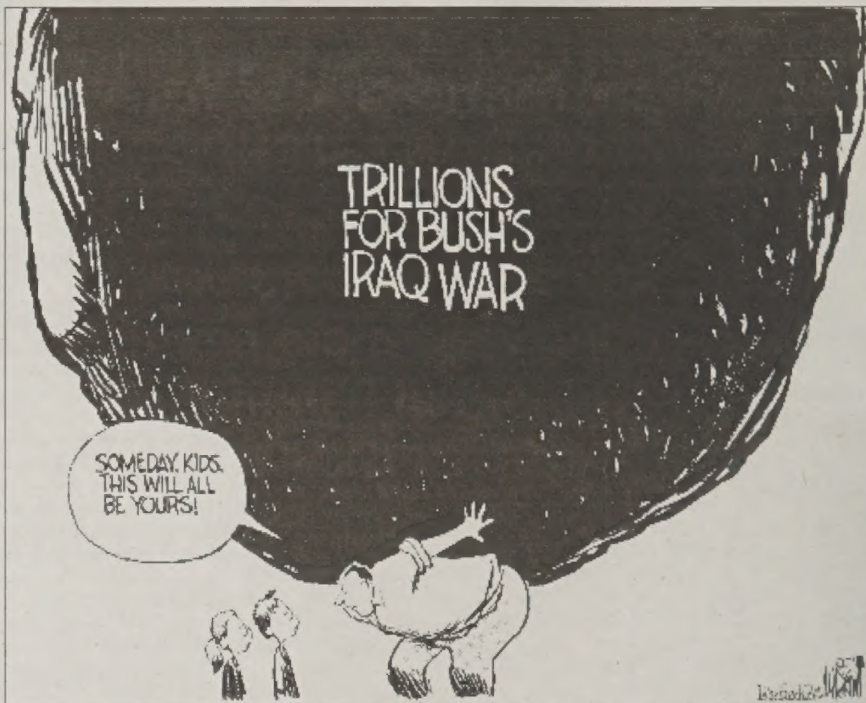
Intolerance is not a one-way

street – liberal or conservative, it doesn't matter. People will always find a way to lash out at what they don't agree with or understand. This holds true even though it may be hard to listen to.

But from this rhetoric comes learning and growth. These things can only hurt if you allow that hurt to be put upon you.

Only by understanding and learning can we ever overcome the hatemongers of the world. Progress can only come from having an open exchange of ideas. Because for every person that says hate-filled things, so many more learn to resist.

Only by embracing diversity, even when it's painful, can we grow. More importantly, only by allowing those whom we dislike to speak can we truly call ourselves free.



KRTcampus cartoon

NECC Observer

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How to submit a letter to the Observer

The Observer welcomes letters from our readers. Letters for publication may be submitted via email, mail or by dropping off the letter at the newsroom, located in Rm. C-222 in the Spurk building.

All letters must be signed and also include a phone number for verification. Email submissions should include "Letter to Editor" in the subject line or risk not being received by the Observer email system.

We prefer submissions via email:
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Include "Letter to Editor" in the subject line.

But, if you wish to submit a letter via paper:

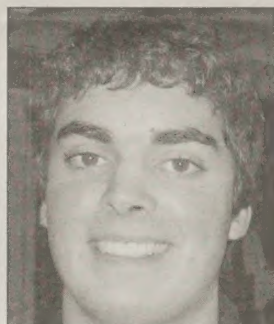
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While we attempt to publish all letters, we reserve the right to edit or reject those received.

The NECC Observer is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, College Media Advisers Inc., the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and the New England Press Association.

Roaming Reporter

Would you support a war against Iran?



Tom Bowling, Philosophy/Political
"Yes, because of the current standard we have. The President of Iran is showing a lot of the traits that Hitler showed, and some people think that tragedy could have been prevented. We need to stay with our standard."



Jake Mulcahy, Liberal Arts
"They are next on the list. They are pregame for China."



Rachel Green, Education
"No, I'm a lover, not a fighter. But for real, we should focus on issues here at home like health care and education."

Photos/Interviews by Daniel Potocki, Jasmin Pastrana, and Sara Cordair



Eric Lynch, Business Management
"No, I would not support a war in Iran. Just because I've seen the progress we have made in countries like Iraq and I think it is just about money."



Chris Simon, Criminal Justice
"No, because I don't believe Iran is a threat nuclear wise. War itself is just unnecessary unless it's a last resort."



Nick Sermuksnis, Psychology
"No, because without a real threat to the United States we cannot overthrow another sovereign nation."

Opinion

Nicotine vaccine could save lives

Experimental vaccine NicVAX could help smokers quit

By ROBIN CZIFRIK
Contributing Reporter



Cigarette smokers who want to kick the habit may soon have a more promising option: a vaccine.

Dr. Stephen Rennard of the University of Nebraska Medical Center presented results of mid-stage clinical trials at an American Heart Association conference earlier this month.

NicVAX, an experimental, injectable nicotine vaccine, helps the body's immune system create antibodies that bind to nicotine in the bloodstream. With an antibody attached to it, the nicotine is too large to enter the brain.

Because it's prevented from reaching the part of the brain associated with addiction, smokers are unable to feel the positive sensation that nicotine usually produces.

Basically, smoking a cigarette becomes useless because you can't feel its effects.

"I believe data from this trial are

very encouraging for smokers who are trying to quit as well as for the field of smoking cessation vaccines. Only a short time ago, it was difficult to find convincing evidence to link anti-nicotine antibody with smoking cessation," Rennard said.

The NicVAX study consisted of 301 long-term smokers who wanted to quit. Participants were given five shots within a six-month period that consisted of a 400 micrograms dose, 200 micrograms dose, or placebo.

At 12 months, 16 percent of smokers given the 400 microgram dose and 14 percent given the 200 microgram dose were still tobacco-free. Those injected with a placebo had a 6 percent success rate.

"The data show there is a correlation between antibody level and the ability of patients to quit smoking and remain abstinent over long periods of time. This development is key for the field of smoking cessation research and it could have a significant impact on how we treat patients with nicotine addiction," said Rennard.

In addition to helping smokers quit, the shots may also help to prevent relapse because the immune system still creates antibodies to nicotine for six to 12 months after vaccination.

NicVAX differs from popular nicotine replacement therapies such as the patch, gum and nasal spray, which only control the amount of

nicotine one gets and doesn't address the actual addiction because the smoker still feels the positive sensation that nicotine produces.

Based in Boca Raton, Fla., Nabi Biopharmaceuticals, the vaccine's developer, also focuses on developing and marketing products geared toward hepatitis and transplant, and gram-positive bacterial infections.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration gave NicVAX development Fast Track designation in 2006. The Centers for Disease Control says smoking is the leading cause of preventable deaths in the U.S., causing about 438,000 deaths per year.

According to the National Cancer Institute, of those 438,000 premature deaths, 40 percent are from cancer, 35 percent from heart disease and stroke, and 25 percent from lung disease. The NCI also says that studies show that those who quit smoking at age 30 reduce their chances of dying from smoking-related illness by more than 90 percent, and those who quit around age 50 can expect to cut their chances by 50 percent.

Among the 45.1 million people in the U.S. that currently smoke, 70 percent report the desire to quit.

"Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body, causing many diseases and affecting the health of smokers in general. Quitting smoking has immediate as well as long-term benefits for you and your loved ones," the CDC says.

NOTABLE FACTS

The largest toy distributor in the world is McDonald's.

The Atlantic giant squid's eye can be as large as 15.75 inches wide.

During the Civil War, more troops died of disease than of war-inflicted wounds.

An ostrich egg can make 12 omelets.

There are over 58 million dogs in the U.S.

Hummingbirds can't walk.

A snail can sleep for three years.

All facts taken from
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NOTABLE QUOTES

"Fear is the mother of morality."
- Friedrich Nietzsche

"For the bureaucrat, the world is a mere object to be manipulated by him."
- Karl Marx

"We intend to sing the love of danger, the habit of energy and fearlessness. Courage, audacity, and revolt will be essential elements of our poetry."
- The Futurist Manifesto

"A government is the most dangerous threat to a man's rights: it holds a legal monopoly on the use of physical force against legally disarmed victims."
- Ayn Rand

"When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro."
- Hunter S. Thompson

We want to hear from you.

Send letters or opinion columns to the NECC Observer:

observer@necc.mass.edu

Include "Opinion Editor" in subject line.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Debate should have been covered

Dear Editor,

Your readers may be interested in discovering that a debate was held at NECC Oct. 17 under the auspices of the Contemporary Affairs Club. Perhaps the topic of the debate explains its absence in the paper: Should the United States immediately and unilaterally dismantle its

nuclear arsenal? As the two faculty members involved in the debate, we naturally have different positions on the issue, but we both believe it is worthy of serious consideration. The Contemporary Affairs Club deserves full credit for sponsoring the debate, and the failure of the Observer to cover it is regrettable. Perhaps this

omission reflects the general tendency in our culture to ignore the continuing danger posed by the existence of nuclear weapons.

Yours sincerely,
Prof. Andrew Morse
Prof. Stephen E. Slaner
Department of History & Government

Middle school too young for sex

Dear Editor,

I write in response to the article in the No. 7 NECC Observer titled "Middle school gets birth control pill." I was shocked to find out that in middle school birth control is being handed out to children as young as 11 years of age. They are basically telling children from ages 11 to 14 that it is OK to have sex at that age. How can parents allow their children to receive birth control? They are still children.

At ages 11 to 14, I believe that children don't understand the consequences of their actions sometimes. I think that children who are having sex at the ages of 11 to 14 need to respect their bodies — they are just learning who they are.

I think the media, which por-

trays sex as just a casual thing, is influencing children. When I was in middle school, I wasn't even thinking about sex. I think that the media is going to influence the younger generations of children and because of that parents need to become stricter. I think that those parents who are handing out birth control to their 11-year-olds don't talk to their children enough. Instead, they give them various methods of birth control to minimize pregnancies and forget that there are effects on the child.

Later on in life these children will probably give their 11-year-old children birth control pills because their parents did. What kind of sign are they giving to their children? "It's OK to have sex at 11 years of age as long as you use

some kind of birth control"? Fifty years ago you would never hear that an 11-year-old is taking birth control pills, let alone that a child of that age is sexually active.

Parents need to talk to their children about the consequences of having sex; you can get STDs, AIDS, and become pregnant. I think that if someone is not ready to talk about the what-ifs, they shouldn't have sex. If they can't handle the consequences or are not able to emotionally, physically and financially be able to take care of a baby, they shouldn't be having sex in the first place. In my opinion I think that parents need to become stricter and not allow 11-year-olds to be sexually active.

Sincerely,
Jenna Lomanno

Opinion

Saddam's last days

Guilt filled Hussein's last days on earth

By **CHRISTINE RIBEIRO**
Contributing Reporter

Does the Tin Man have a heart after all? Not likely. However, according to reports by Fox News, former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein shed tears at a meeting with an FBI interrogator. The two individuals had been communicating for a year, and met before the dictator's passing.

The normally coldhearted Hussein appeared to be saddened by the loss of a best friend. The dictator's tears bewildered Americans alike because Hussein favored the foe to the occasional friend.

No one is saying Hussein did not have the right to express his emotions. Perhaps Hussein was crying for a number of reasons.

Hussein had finalized contact with a close communicant of the past year, but the reality of all his wrongdoings was finally sinking in. Hussein had hurt individuals on both physical and mental levels. No amount of tears or apologies would ever account for what he had done. Hussein should have felt guilty, for he had nothing to be proud of. Had Hussein's life not been taken, he

would have eventually passed due to his own remorse.

Hussein befriended the interrogator, which worked to the advantage of the FBI. The interrogator and Hussein would exchange seemingly innocent conversations, while the FBI would get confessions from Hussein. Hussein was fearful of Iraq's opposing country, Iran, and combated the country with weapon threats, specifically nuclear and biological.

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In the end, Hussein was the one being manipulated.

Hussein likely did not foresee the United States attack on Iraq. His motives behind telling both the United States and Iran about the nonexistent weapons, was to keep Iran from attacking Iraq. Hussein knew the strength of the terror-driven Iranian forces, and underestimated the power of the United States forces. No one individual (especially Americans) wants to believe this lengthy battle has been all for nothing, but all arrows point in this direction.

Supposedly, the United States' originally reason for the invasion in Iraq was the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. At the time, the attacks were good reason to physi-

cally confront Iraq. Americans saw all the more logic behind an invasion once the knowledge of weapons of mass destruction hit America. With the passing of Saddam Hussein and the discovery that WMDs did not exist, most citizens do not see the point behind holding troops in Iraq.

All hope seems lost as innocent lives, both American and Iraqi, continue to be lost, and families are broken apart. The United States and our leader, President George W.

Bush, have more than made our point. Our country and our leader are not by any means OK with the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The United States was also

more than ready to find the weapons and rid Iraq of those weapons. The country of Iraq has been taken back by the strength of United States forces, and now wishes for the United States to back off.

In the end, Hussein was the one being manipulated. The United States asked those with the highest intelligence levels to corner the former dictator in a friendly manner. In doing so, the information no other individual could retrieve was revealed.

Now that the tin man has passed, the FBI must take their intelligence members elsewhere, and close this pointless war, once and for all.

To shoe or not to shoe

Humans rely on shoes far to much, to our medical peril

By **ARTEMIS SAVORY**
Contributing Reporter



There are shoes for everything: dancing, running, walking, climbing, and even for just walking around the house. But are they really

necessary?

Most people, at least here in the United States, have a paranoid fear of barefootedness. They find feet dirty, stinky, and just plain “unnatural.”

Before, however, the reader comes to his or her own conclusions, think about it this way: Dogs are not born with shoes on their feet, and neither are humans. For just about any animal, the feet are the most important body part. Without feet there is no walking, running, and for those other than humans, no food, no society, and no life. To lose one's feet is to die. So perhaps people should be a little more careful with their feet.

Arguments against walking

barefoot state that there is no arch support, diseases are more easily contracted, feet are fragile, it makes the feet smell worse, and the feet are dirtier.

Walking barefoot does not give the feet arch support, because none is needed. In countries where it is acceptable to walk around barefoot, people live long lives without any problems. Diseases may be contracted, just as in the hands, lungs and other body parts that have any regular contact with the world.

Bathroom walking may be fairly unintelligent, but otherwise, people touch things with their hands all the time, so why not their feet too?

Ten-second rule, anyone?

Feet are only as fragile as they're made to be. If a person wears too-comfortable shoes all his or her life, then it is sure to pose a problem, as too much comfort means no pain, and feeling no pain makes an inability to fix the issue which would have created the pain.

Toes are fragile, of course, but more damage can be done through boots and high heels than barefootedness. Bare feet do not smell worse than shod feet, because they are free all day and do not sweat as profusely. They may appear dirtier, but are really cleaner than their sweater counterparts.

See *Walking* page 5

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Opinion

Music program fails NECC grad

Transfer student left ill-prepared for further studies

By JEFF BOURBEAU
Contributing Reporter



Justin Carpenter found himself upset and unprepared transferring into a new school, just months after graduating from Northern Essex

Community College last semester. He decided to move forward to a four-year university, and with his associate degree in Liberal Arts: Music Option, he was under the assumption he had gained the skills and tools necessary for such a task.

But he found himself lacking the critical elements of musical education that the school asks for in its incoming students.

(At UMass) they expect you to have already learned basic skills that Northern Essex never offered. It was kind of a shock.

— Justin Carpenter

"They expect you to have already learned basic skills that Northern Essex never offered," said Carpenter, referring to the University of Massachusetts in Lowell's music program. "It was kind of a shock."

Carpenter graduated from NECC after five years of hard work, but UMass did not take his Music Theory credits.

"UMass expects you to already know how to sight read music, and even to sight sing," which boils down to easily being able to play and sing from lines of written music. Carpenter continues, "At NECC, I got through without sight reading

skills. They didn't even offer courses on it. Now I'm submerged in reading music."

Carpenter now has to start his musical education over, as UMass does not accept NECC's music theory credits. This doesn't surprise Carpenter though, considering the high order of education UMass' music program asks for in its incoming students.

"I got my general (classes) out of the way, all done at NECC. But I'm not the only transfer kid in my program without the required sight reading skills," says Carpenter, in a tone befitting a student robbed of the many credit hours and dollars he's poured into his education so far. "I

was disappointed."

But is this a problem with UMass' program, or is it something inherent with NECC's liberal arts degrees?

Earlier this year, Liberal Arts: Writing Option students also suffered from some major hiccups when one of the major's required courses wasn't even offered for over two semesters. How can a student get a degree when his major's courses aren't there for over a year? In this case, students were told to find online substitutions, or organize a one-on-one study with a professor.

Carpenter believes the school can address the hardships that a transferring music student suffers

from relatively easily.

"I think they should just offer some very basic, introductory sight reading and sight singing courses at NECC," he said.

Thankfully, it seems these suggestions aren't necessary, because the semester after Carpenter graduated the fairly new chairman of the music department, Ken Langer, breathed some fresh change into the music program. The music theory classes that are of little value to Carpenter, now have been altered to include sight singing and reading curriculum at an introductory level, which are exactly the problems Carpenter suggested be addressed.

Music hopefuls at NECC may not have to suffer like Carpenter is, they are going to get the skills needed for a proper musical education, but what about Carpenter's problems? He has no real options aside from struggling onwards at UMass and trying his best. He came too early to the party and graduated at NECC before its music program could teach him what he needed. Now it's all left up to him.

Censorship in college

By DANIEL A. POTOCKI
Opinion Editor



Today I'd like to briefly touch on the topic of academic censorship. For people to live and flourish in a free society, we must have an open marketplace of ideas. The marketplace of ideas is the invisible forum within which people of all age, race and creed use free

speech.

Different people, with different backgrounds and beliefs, will produce different ideas. This is a natural process that helps to build a better world by making it easier for new ideas to spread. Whether you want to legalize drugs or ban abortions, it is the ability to freely express your ideas to others that makes the difference.

Sadly, this freedom of expression is being attacked on college campuses across the country.

Right now in many states political conservatives are trying to pass "intellectual diversity" laws. While on the surface that sounds OK it is really nothing more than censorship. The concept of "intellectual diversity" works as follows: Conservatives consider college campuses to be too liberal, but instead of trying to create groups on campus to express their opinions, they try to pass laws saying that professors have to regulate what they teach. By saying that all ideas are either liberal or conservative, and that each side needs equal time, teachers are kept from addressing controversial topics.

How can you talk about the war in Iraq without the possibility of bringing up criticism against the Bush administration? Simply put, you can't, so to avoid being sued, teachers wouldn't bring it up.

Intellectual diversity should be the natural product of a free exchange of ideas, but when that is taken away, all we have left is censorship.

Walking barefoot is healthy

Continued from Page 4

Boots are tight and unyielding, heavy and tough. This leaves no room for the foot to do its job, no flexibility is allowed. Perhaps more comfortable than high heels, the same problems may occur, and more.

A man I know who has worn boots at work all his life now has a collapsed toe, due to jumping from 2-foot and lower obstacles to the pavement. For the rest of his life, he must wear a foot mold to keep the toe raised.

Flip-flops are the best shoes to compare to bare feet because they are so similar in structure. Most flip-flops have no arch support, which deals with the first problem people have with bare feet. Flip-flops also tend to be made from very cheap and weak material (\$5 pair from Wal-Mart: foam?) and are therefore prone to just as much risk as the barefoot walker — nails, tacks and glass are just as dangerous for both.

The flip-flop exposes the foot every-

where other than the bottom. If the shoe is weak and flimsy, then this doesn't matter — the bottom of the foot is still not very well protected. Wearing flip-flops is like suicide. A person can't run without losing them, can't climb or jump, and there is even this idea that one is not allowed to drive in flip-flops for fear of having them fall halfway, causing an accident.

The best part about walking barefoot is that there is nothing to catch one's foot on, no laces or torn material, and the whole foot gets wet rather than just parts. Climbing and skateboarding might be painful at times, but there's no hazard of getting caught on something.

Walking around barefoot is healthy because it allows people to walk the way they were meant to walk, uninhibited and free with movement. It keeps people "more grounded" for sure, and is also a very interesting experience.

Maybe the reader should try it some time.

Modern infidelity

By SHALIMAR QUILES
Contributing Reporter

It wasn't until I was finally in bed that night that I was able to completely internalize all of the underlying facts that slept indiscreetly behind the comedian's jokes.

It was on my birthday just this past weekend that my boyfriend bought us tickets to a comedy show. He was sure I would take pleasure in every minute of it as we both enjoyed a good laugh. But though I slightly giggled at most all the jokes for fear of acting ungrateful, as a young woman I was offended, embarrassed, and even confused.

We had fifth-row tickets and a clear view of the comedian before he started. His first jokes went on about the overbearing power of a man over a woman, whether sexual or just out of mere companionship. He spoke out about our vulnerability and how we would cater to a man for fear of sleeping alone. The jokes were funny for the most part, but then he went on about the infidelity ratio, clearly stating that experts estimated that nearly 75 percent of married men, or men involved in serious relationships, cheat. Then he proceeded with a manly roar and applauded the percentage. The audience laughed and applauded in unison. I quickly glanced over at my boyfriend, daring him to clap.

As the show went on, the comedian gave reference to the disappearance of what was once known as the "seven-year itch." Though unaware of its definition at the time, it turned out to be the once disreputable length of time it normally took a man to give into sexual temptation, which was brought about in 1955 with the publication of the film starring Marilyn Monroe and Tom Ewell. In comparison with our current generation, studies show that most men who cheat are doing it within the first three years of a relationship, compared to what was once seven.

I laughed at a few more jokes, lightly making reference of everything that I wasn't completely familiar with, because though I had never really been in a long-term relationship myself, my favorite circle of friends had always been. And during my duties as a friend and sister, I witnessed what these acts of infidelity did to those people around me who are competent, strong and self-driven. It was disturbing.

After conducting a bit more research on the

subject of infidelity itself, I found that counselors suggested that it can be attributed to many factors. Among those factors was the simple fact that it was allowed by women, making it easier than ever before.

For most men, cheating feeds the ego. It can also feed the illusions that a man's role is to conquer as many women as possible. Others cheat because of the thrill and rush. But despite all of these factors, nothing justifies it; nothing makes cheating OK.

An article written in Ebony magazine in 1998 made a good observation on technologies impact on cheating. It stated, "Long gone are the days when a man and his mistress communicated by calling each other's home, letting the telephone ring once and hanging up. With technological advances such as pagers, cell phones, voice mail and e-mail, a cheating heart can carry on a side relationship without much fear of getting caught, virtually staying in touch with the other woman 24/7 without his partner ever having a clue."

So we go back to the main issue at hand; why the recent surge in male infidelity?

L.A. relationship therapist Ronn Elmore said, "To be faithful, a man ultimately has to deprive himself of something that he knows will feel good. Deprivation in a society that says, 'If it feels good, do it,' is tough for most men."

In those two measly hours of the show, I realized how much of an important issue this is gradually becoming in today's society. It's becoming a behavioral problem that is only being more easily accepted every day. And of course being referenced to in a comedy show!

As a "short-term" relationship person, I started to hold onto the comedian's statistics as I convinced myself that a "long-term" relationship would just be a waste of time, because frankly, 75 percent was a lot. The hope for it to hold values like those that our parent held was unlikely.

Though a confident person in all my senses, I can honestly say I sat there and questioned my own relationship. Where would temptation take him, and what would I do? Nothing is as personal as cheating.

Experts say many women may be willing to forgive a man once, but that's it. Elmore also added, "The old adage, 'Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me,' definitely still applies."

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Seasonal celebration

Student Activities and Orientation is sponsoring the 10th annual Seasonal Celebration and Children's Holiday Party Wednesday, Dec. 5 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Sport and Fitness Center in the Haverhill Campus.

Faculty, staff, students and children are invited to join the festivities.

The event will include crafts, ethnic food, information about different cultural celebrations and traditions and free pictures with Santa from 4 to 6 p.m.

Contact Bruce Potter at 978-556-3732 in Student Activities and Orientation to indicate how many children you may bring.

New spring courses

Urban Sociology: For the second time ever, NECC is offering Urban Sociology for the spring 2008 semester.

The course will discuss major urban problems, the evolution of cities and what makes a city tick. Students enrolled in the class will also develop skills to deal with urban issues and meet new contacts in the Urban Sociology field.

The class will meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 10:50 a.m. at the Haverhill campus. Jorge Santiago will be the instructor. For more information contact Santiago at JSantiago@necc.mass.edu.

Philosophy Through Film: Using imagery of film, Philosophy Through Film attempts to show how philosophy can interconnect themes and ideas presented by film directors. Central topics of the course include epistemology, religion, personal identity, human freedom and meaning of life and death.

The class will meet Tuesday and Thursday from 12:15 to 2 p.m. next semester. Meredith Gunning will be the instructor. For more information contact her at MGunning@necc.mass.edu.

Parnassus challenge

NECC's literary magazine, Parnassus, is offering cash prizes for winning submissions. The three categories for judging by the Parnassus staff include: artwork or photography, fiction or creative nonfiction and poetry. The cash prize is \$50 for each category. Only one winner will be allowed per category.

Submissions must be submitted by Nov. 26. For more information contact Professor Patrick Lochelt, club adviser at PLochelt@necc.mass.edu.

Does your campus organization or office have something to announce in Campus Briefs? Please e-mail information to observer@necc.mass.edu. Be sure to include "campus news brief" in the subject line.

Continued from Page 1

gender complaint he alleged that Elizabeth Wilcoxson, assistant dean of the humanities and foreign language and social sciences department, discriminated against him by assigning classes based on her bias against older male employees.

According to Miller, this past summer he was called into Wilcoxson's office and was told that he plagiarized a "History of Radio" handout he had compiled for his TV Broadcast class. For years, Miller only gave out the Web site but felt that a copy of the handout would be better suited for the students who have an interest in radio since it is not taught here.

"After a few years, the author hadn't updated it so I thought it was necessary to add information to bring it up to date. I took that piece, put a lot of my own material on it but still stated 'Compiled by Fred Miller' on it and passed it out," Miller said.

After meeting with Wilcoxson, Miller said that there could have been some plagiarism there so he made his apologies. When he arrived home afterward, Miller said he realized there was something wrong with his admission.

"I Googled plagiarism and found policies for 25 different colleges. I then e-mailed Elizabeth

saying that I had serious misgivings about the whole plagiarism issue and here is an attachment which says I didn't plagiarize because I didn't declare credit or ownership," Miller said, adding that he received no response from Wilcoxson.

When the assignments came out for this semester, Miller was only assigned one class, which is required by the union contract, while his colleagues both received four classes.

According to Miller's second

alleged offense was later changed to attribution.

Glenn then informed Miller that he would have to satisfy Wilcoxson's requirements on the plagiarism issue in order to receive more than one class, according to Miller.

Lane Glenn refused to comment on the issue.

Miller rewrote the "History of Radio" handout and took all the material that was the original author's and indented it on the page. He then added his own information

Bottom line is I teach more than just English...there's lots of places they could put me...

-Fred Miller

complaint, on or about Aug. 28, he met with Academic Dean Lane Glenn, who informed him that he would only be allowed to teach one class for the fall semester because he was accused of plagiarism based on a document found in his office that, according to Miller, was found without his authorization. The

without the indentations.

"Basically what I did was I took credit for what I had written and gave credit for what the author had written," Miller said.

Miller was then involved in an unrelated union grievance in the Developmental Studies Department. On Sept. 26, he participated in Step

III mediation in the developmental studies department, involving his assignment to the developmental studies seniority list. Professor Joe Rizzo, DCE grievance coordinator, officiated the mediation. According to Miller, Wilcoxson participated in the mediation when she had no reason to be there.

"What's key is that this had to do with developmental studies and she has no part in developmental studies. Instead of dealing with the mediation, they wanted to settle the entire problem," Miller said.

According to Miller, Rizzo came up with a plan that said if the college gives him three classes in the spring, he would resign on payment of \$10,000. At this time the college asked for 30 days to think about the offer, which, according to Miller, came and went with no response so the offer was taken off the table.

Joe Rizzo could not be reached for comment after numerous phone calls and e-mails.

On Oct. 27, according to the second complaint, Miller received an e-mail from Rizzo indicating that the college wanted him to drop his grievances and the MCAD cases and resign at the end of this semester.

Two days later, Miller filed his second complaint on the basis of retaliation and age against the college.

Radio host to give conservative lecture

Continued from Page 1

taken out of context.

In an earlier article written by Boston Phoenix writer Dan Kennedy titled "This Just In," Kennedy recounts some of the views and opinions Severin expressed on his show in 2001. These include calling Bill Clinton "the Adolf Hitler of American politics ... a domestic enemy to the constitution of the United States; a traitor."

He spoke of Hillary Clinton as well, "that cynical, criminal, sociopath (expletive deleted) ... one of the worst people on the planet."

On Janet Reno he said "She's a lesbian evidently." He even went so far as to comment on taxpayer-funded services: He doesn't want to see "free turkey basters for reproducing lesbians."

In fact, a whole Web site (www.jayseverin.org) has been dedicated to tracking the views of Jay Severin. According to the Web site, Severin believes that the PATRIOT Act has not hurt Americans' civil liberties. It states that he believes that non-Americans have no right to constitutional protections. It also states that he believes that an America with a large Mexican population would make the country "a Spanish speaking cesspool."

In the article "Severin's Phony Pulitzer," columnist Scot Lehigh wrote about Severin's claims that he had won a Pulitzer Prize for Online Journalism.

"We looked at the records and there is no record of him winning a Pulitzer Prize," says Sig Gissler, administrator of the prize, as quoted in the article.

Also, as it turns out, there is no Pulitzer for online journalism. According to the article, Severin passed this off, claiming that his editor at the time told him he had won an award like a Pulitzer. In reality, the award was actually an Online Journalism Award given to the whole of MSMBC.com.

The Observer tried to contact college President David Hartleb for a comment, but there was no reply after several phone calls.

For further information, e-mail Conservative Affairs at conservativeaffairs@live.com.

There is no record of him winning a Pulitzer Prize.

-Sig Gissler

U.S. Army desertion rates rise 80 percent

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The weight of the war has proven to be too heavy for a growing number of soldiers.

Faced with difficult and repeated tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, deployments that stretch for 15 months, and signs of lingering stress disorders, more soldiers are finding a way out: desertion.

According to the Army, soldiers are deserting their posts at the highest rate since 1980, with the number of Army deserters this year showing an 80 percent increase since the United States invaded Iraq in 2003.

While the totals are still far lower than they were during the Vietnam War, when the draft was in effect, they show a steady increase over the past four years and a 42 percent jump since last year.

"We're asking a lot of soldiers these days," said Roy Wallace, director of plans and resources for Army personnel. "They're humans. They have all sorts of issues back home and other places like that. So, I'm sure it has to do with the stress of being a soldier."

The Army defines a deserter as someone who has been absent without leave for longer than 30 days. The soldier is then discharged as a deserter.

According to the Army, about nine in every 1,000 soldiers deserted

in fiscal year 2007, which ended Sept. 30, compared to nearly seven per 1,000 a year earlier. Overall, 4,698 soldiers deserted this year, compared to 3,301 last year.

The increase comes as the Army continues to bear the brunt of the war demands with many soldiers serving repeated, lengthy tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Military leaders — including Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey — have acknowledged that the Army has been stretched nearly to the breaking point by the combat. Efforts are under way to increase the size of the Army and Marine Corps to lessen the burden and give troops more time off between deployments.

"We have been concentrating on this," said Wallace. "The Army can't afford to throw away good people. We have got to work with those individuals and try to help them become good soldiers."

Still, he noted that "the military is not for everybody, not everybody can be a soldier." And those who want to leave the service will find a way to do it, he said.

While the Army does not have an up-to-date profile of deserters, more than 75 percent of them are soldiers in their first term of enlistment. And most are male.

Soldiers can sign on initially for two to six years. Wallace said he did not know whether deserters were more likely to be those who enlisted for a short or long tour.

News

National News



Compiled by the Observer staff
from AP wire reports

Senator says Bush's Iraq plan not working

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Democratic senator on Saturday accused President Bush and congressional Republicans of hindering his party's attempts to chart a new course in Iraq even though U.S. troops are fighting violence "they cannot possibly resolve."

Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., said increased troop levels ordered earlier this year to give Iraqi politicians breathing space to meet political and diplomatic goals have not had the intended result.

"That means our troops are fighting for a peace that we seem more interested in achieving than the Iraqi politicians do themselves," Casey said while delivering the Democrats' weekly radio address.

The White House has said there have been positive developments in Iraq, such as a reduction in violence and increased economic capacity.

On Friday, Senate Republicans blocked a \$50 billion Democratic bill that would have paid for several months of combat. It also would have ordered troop withdrawals from Iraq to begin within 30 days and set a goal of ending combat in December 2008.

Democrats now plan to sit on Bush's \$196 billion request for war spending until next year, which pushes the Pentagon toward an accounting nightmare.

McCain will meet with hostile foreign leaders if guaranteed win

DIXVILLE NOTCH, N.H. (AP) — Republican presidential contender John McCain on Friday said he would meet with leaders of Iran and North Korea only if the encounter would guarantee a U.S. win.

"The logic is, you don't want to do something that enhances the image and prestige of someone who is your adversary, OK?" McCain told reporters traveling with him on a four-day campaign trip to New Hampshire's northern regions.

The Arizona senator said there could be disastrous results if the outcome of meetings with any hostile leaders were not predetermined.

"Are you going to accomplish something? That's the key. If you're going to go in and you're confident you are going to accomplish something, fine, do it," he said. "Know what the outcome is going to be so you're not embarrassed by the person you're taking to walking out and enhancing their own prestige."

The subject of meeting with leaders hostile to the United States dominated weeks of the Democrats' debate between Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama. Clinton said she would not meet with hostile leaders without condition; Obama said he would.

College offers alternative for academic advising meetings

Academic Advising Center launches online advising program

BY SHALIMAR QUILES
Contributing Reporter

To further broaden its services, NECC has developed a new initiative relative to the academic counseling one can receive on both the Lawrence and Haverhill campuses throughout the day.

In an effort to assist students in planning and visualizing their future, Advising Live was developed to make extended services be more accommodating for students with hectic schedules, time restraints and distance disadvantages. Initially developed for distance learners — those who are striving to attain degrees solely through online courses (Yes, that's possible at NECC) — Advising Live was a missing component in the efforts of connecting commuter students to their campus and faculty long after their classes are over.

Though its early focus was on distance learners, Advising Live is now accessible to all students as well as prospective students who have academic concerns regarding scheduling, transitioning or career counseling.

"It's a great way to have an ongoing relationship with students even once they are off campus. Working full-time limits my availability, so this would be a service that I can utilize and take full advantage of," said Kathy Brunetti, a second-year NECC student.

The site can be accessed right from the Academic Advising quick link on the NECC homepage. No additional software is required to employ this service.

Advising Live can also relay

It's a great way to have an ongoing relationship with students even once they are off campus. Working full time limits my availability, so this would be service that I can utilize.

—Kathy Brunetti

specific issues to its designated area, whether it is the financial aid office or the English department, where it can be better assessed and supervised.

Current and returning students simply log into the Self-Service page using their student ID. Once logged in, additional information is required for security purposes. After the verification process is complete, the adviser can proceed to access the student's academic information and continue to better assist them. Those who are not former or current students must follow through the specified link where they will be able to ask general questions and address common concerns.

During off-line hours, students are able to e-mail advising staff with any questions and will be assisted in a process that Grace Young (formerly Dimmick), associate dean of academic affairs, transfer, articulation and advising, refers to as the "24-hour turnaround." This guarantees a response or specific course of action within 24 hours. The Web adviser is a qualified, high-level multi-tasker, who will be confined to her area as she assists multiple students during the online session. As the demand for this service

increases, an expansion in chat hours will be considered upon evaluation.

"We are trying to give more access to our students by making information more available," Young said.

"It takes special training to understand and navigate through," Young said. "My staff has all been well trained."

Providing advising for all academic programs is not an easy task, and when it is done online, it becomes even more difficult. But it is through a wide variety of support services that faculty relays the success of students. Support and dedication from faculty paves a smooth road for students to follow as they go on to accomplish academic, career, transfer and personal goals. Advising Live just becomes another chunk of cement that in time will be smoothed out to contribute to the success of NECC students. Advising Live Chat hours of operation are Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Tuesday and Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. and Friday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact the Academic Advising Center at the Behrakis One Stop Student Center or at 978-556-3440.

Unoccupied auto rolls into Technology Center courtyard



Security Log

With the help of Eagle Security, this security log has been released to inform students and staff about the incidents requiring the assistance of Eagle Security at the NECC campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence.

This log covers the events from of both Haverhill and

Lawrence campuses from Sept. 25 to Nov. 19.

Oct. 24 — Two students were reported fighting on Haverhill campus. Situation was forwarded to Nita Lamborghini.

Oct. 26 — A student accidentally left his car in gear in lot 1 at the Technology Center. The car rolled into a marsh. The student was notified and a tow truck was called to remove the vehicle. There were no injuries.

Oct. 27 — The door to the bookstore in the Lawrence campus was accidentally left unlocked at

the close of the business day. Nothing was missing. Lawrence Police was notified.

Nov. 2 — Nursing student became ill during class and requested her father pick her up. Student's father took her to the local hospital.

Nov. 9 — A homeless man entered the Lawrence campus to use the men's room and then left the premises. It appeared the man had been drinking. No incidents occurred.

Nov. 12 — Student fell in dance studio at the Haverhill campus. An ambulance was called.

World News



Compiled by the Observer staff
from AP wire reports

Honduran official arraigned in Zelaya wiretap scandal

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — The former director of Honduras' state phone company appeared in court Wednesday on charges he was involved in the illegal wiretapping of President Manuel Zelaya's phone conversations.

Prosecutors allege that Marcelo Chimirri ordered two other suspects to tape eight conversations, in which a voice that sounded like Zelaya's outlined a strategy to control the nation's news media.

"Every conversation held by public officials should be public as a way for the government to demonstrate its transparency," Chimirri said at his arraignment. He said he hadn't shown up sooner — he was charged on Friday — because he had "other business to attend to."

Chimirri was released on his own recognizance but ordered to appear at the courthouse each week and not leave the country. It was not clear whether he had entered a plea.

The clips were posted on video-sharing Web site YouTube last month and broadcast on radio stations, sparking an investigation into Chimirri and Hondutel executives Luis Arriaga and Danilo Santos.

Iran urges Iraq not to back U.S. accusations

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The Iraqi government mustn't follow-up on U.S. accusations that Iran backs violence in Iraq, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said Sunday in a rare public spat between the two countries since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

On Saturday, Iraqi government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said Iran was now limiting its support to fighters in Iraq, and urged Tehran and the U.S. to take advantage of this to hold a new round of talks on improving the situation in the war-torn country.

"Iran is showing more restraint in sending people and weapons to destabilize Iraq," al-Dabbagh said.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry angrily dismissed this implicit endorsement of U.S. accusations.

"Since the beginning, the United States has raised baseless accusations against Iran," Hosseini told reporters. "Remarks by al-Dabbagh do not match Iran's constructive political attitude, which has been repeatedly confirmed by Iraqi officials," he said.

Shiite Iran has always denied claims by American commanders that it is arming and training Shiite Muslim militia fighters in Iraq, insisting that it is doing its best to help stabilize its embattled neighbor.

13 Down jams for NECC students

BY ARTEMIS SAVORY
Features Editor



A two-man band literally shook the Spurr Building with a set of maroon drums, a burgundy guitar and a quiet voice last

week. The band goes by the name of 13Down and they played their first school gig on Thursday, Nov. 15 from noon to 12:30 p.m. in Lecture Hall A.

The roaring drums, no doubt, attracted much-wanted attention, but seemed to create problems during songs, since the guitarist's voice could not always be heard over the roaring beats. Drummer Anthony Cataldi became almost possessed as he fell into the moment, while keeping a consistent beat and playing along with the melody of the song.

Guitarist and singer Justin Hudon played his best while singing the songs — many of which he wrote himself. Hudon's voice might not have been as low as it sounded, but

“Break You’ has that solid sound, deep, dark.

— 13 Down drummer Anthony Cataldi

the drums sometimes overlapped it like it was background music.

They played mostly their own songs, such as “The Way You Say,” “Break You,” “Time of My Life” and “How Many Times.”

Of one of their heaviest songs, Cataldi said, “‘Break You’ has that solid sound, deep, dark.”

“Without You” started off slowly with the guitar. The drums joined in quietly at first, and then the cymbals shrill, and suddenly the drumsticks were flashing about every which way in a fast-paced tempo that didn’t confuse the drummer at all.

“I thought they were entertaining,” said Bruce Potter of Student Activities. He also said that he would like the duo to perform again sometime on a day and at a time when more students could attend.

The two musicians met last spring in the pool hall over at the

Fitness Center and have been practicing together for little more than four months. They try to practice as much as possible, which is difficult due to Hudon’s busy work schedule.

Cataldi said that the band name came about because he liked the number 13. Neither writes out music before playing it, but Hudon does write out the chords for his music.

Both Hudon and Cataldi like the band Taking Back Sunday. Cataldi prefers metal bands where Hudon is more interested in rap and would like to write more emotional songs in the future.

The music played sounded similar to many Nickelback songs. Cataldi said that he does like the band, and he also listens to Metallica and Guns N’ Roses.

Cataldi has been playing the



Artemis Savory photo

13 Down guitarist and singer Justin Hudon and drummer Anthony Cataldi play for NECC students.

drums since he was 7 years old, and his father is a drummer as well. He is majoring in business but has taken Music Ensemble I in the past.

Hudon has been playing the guitar since he was 15 years old. Now 22, he can sing while playing. He had singing lessons for a couple of months and has taken chorus.

He’s been writing his own

lyrics since the age of 16, songs, he says, that come mostly from his own experiences. He also plays the piano. He was at the school last semester and majored in liberal arts.

The band is still looking for a bassist, lead guitarist and possibly a singer. They hope to play at the school again someday soon.

It’s time to travel tropical

JetBlue offers deals to take you far this winter

BY ALYSSA BERNHARDT
Contributing Reporter

The fall weather is here and winter is quickly approaching. The frigid air has probably got some of you dreaming of sunshine, warmth, and beaches. The good news is that it will be easier and less expensive than you think to get away this winter.

Many airlines are running specials to warm parts of the world this time of the year. JetBlue has some of the best fare deals from Boston to tropical regions. Some of the fares are around \$200 round-trip to the Bahamas, just under \$300 round-trip to many Florida destinations, and about \$280 round-trip to Aruba. That gives you many options.

The Bahamas are a very popular destination and have many attractions. Nassau offers gambling, shopping and history. Here you’d definitely need to visit the Straw Market and Cable Beach. Paradise Island is full of resorts, including the famed Atlantis. It’s a huge resort where you could even spend your entire stay. Hotel prices

here range from \$150 to \$400 a night. Some of the more expensive ones have the all-inclusive option. You can usually find accommodations through Expedia or Travelocity for a relatively affordable price.

One can only begin to imagine the possibilities of fun in Florida! You could spend weeks in certain regions with incredible attractions. First on everyone’s mind is Orlando. Of course, you can find Walt Disney World, Sea World, American Adventures, and many other things here. There are endless amounts of fun and memories to be made. It is somewhat pricey to stay on Disney World property, but there are plenty of good deals to be found in the surrounding area. Some of the prices are \$70 to \$150.

Fort Lauderdale has miles and miles of beaches for those sun worshippers ready to get a tan. You can also find thousands of places for tasty eating. Hotels here range from \$80 to \$150. You could easily spend five days here relaxing and enjoying the weather for under \$1,000.

Fort Myers is a popular attraction on the Gulf Coast side of the Sunshine State. It’s a major sailing port and a wonderful destination for the people who love to fish. Captiva and Sanibel islands are

also fine resort islands a short drive from Fort Myers.

Other Florida destinations offer beaches, fishing, fine dining, relaxation and beautiful weather. Some even offer great history lessons. They are all somewhat inexpensive to travel to and lodge there.

Aruba is a tropical destination for those looking to get far, far away. It is located just above Venezuela in the Caribbean Sea. This island is well known for its casinos and beautiful beaches. Lodging will be more expensive here, with many ranging from \$200 to \$300 a night. There are deals to be found with the right dates.

While JetBlue offers great ticket fares, you can also find many hotel deals like the ones above. You can sign up to receive free e-mails notifying you of travel deals from Boston (or whatever airport you wish to fly out of). As always, there are restrictions to the fares. Be sure to read the fine print and pick dates for travel accordingly.

You can also sign up for travel e-mails from www.Boston.com. They offer many discounts on certain trips and will notify you of sales. So, who’s getting away from the snow this winter?

HoloDek is a gamer’s paradise

BY SANJAY MEDVITZ
Contributing Reporter

Walk through the doors of HoloDek in Hampton, N.H., and enter a new world of gaming royalty.

HoloDek is a gaming center that brings people the opportunity to play and watch the virtual things they love in a comfortable setting with the highest technology. With the HoloDek name creatively coming from the show “Star Trek,” this venue has quickly become the gaming spot in New England.

So why would anyone want to go somewhere else besides their own home to play online games?

“It’s a lot more fun to game with my friends in person than to just talk with them online,” says HoloDek gamer Chris Koenig. “Plus it’s always cool to play on a huge screen.”

Playing on a game network is almost unbeatable. Rather than playing on the typical home computer and Internet, a Local Area Network (LAN) gives you the opportunity to play across the network or online with minimal delays or packets.

Possibly the most intriguing thing about the place is the equipment. HoloDek is made up of multiple rooms with over 30 computer stations. Each station consists of some

of the highest powered computers provided by Hewlett-Packard. Each computer is made up of Intel Pentium 4 processors, over 1 gigabyte memory, and top-of-the-line mouse and keyboard. Not to mention the large-screen projectors or LCD panel monitors to complete your experience.

If computer gaming is not your style HoloDek also accommodates two lounges for console gaming. Giant projectors, Playstation 3’s, Xbox 360s, and comfortable couches create a space that is hard to leave. Perhaps even more impressive is HoloDek’s machine they call The Sphere. This giant sphere is a 360 degree projection system with special audio to truly bring the gamer into the game.

“We have really built a great community here,” says Vinny, the HoloDek game director. “We’ve really worked hard to take the online gaming community and make the community in real life.”

HoloDek has run many mainstream tournaments such as Halo and Counter-Strike. They have recently expanded by creating another LAN center in Nashua, N.H. at Daniel Webster College.

Whether you are an avid gamer or you just want to enjoy the Patriots game on the big screen, HoloDek is the place to be.

Arts & Entertainment

Dancers prepare for performance

Continued from Page 1

"Constellations," which represents the various elements in the heavens, and the other is "Eclipse," which traces the paths of the sun and the moon. "Eclipse" was choreographed with Jaime McDonald.

"Serendipity" is a lighthearted Chaplinesque romp choreographed by Orlik Guzman.

On a more serious note, there are dances like "Beyond the Shadows," by Any Berube, which deals with prejudice, conditioning and the illusions that interfere with free access to the truth. There is "Afrika, Afrika," by Desiree Blaske, which shows the origins of current problems in Africa. "Darkness Into Light," by Melissa Wilson, shows a mother's struggle with multiple sclerosis. Wilson's sister, Amber, will perform this dance with her.

Some of the dances deal with issues that people face every day in life. For example, "Just the Stuff," by Vanessa Currier, deals with everyday issues that get in the way of a balanced life. "Sanctuary," by Kathy Esposito, is about the need for refuge from the elements that take away from balance and serenity. "Facing Yesterday," by Victoria Roark, is about the memories that drift in and out of our minds throughout the day.

"Hurricane Within," by Izzy Yantin, depicts the inner and outer

“**I dance because it feels good. No matter what I am doing, I can't stop dancing.**
— Sharell Hall

demons that threaten to descend us into chaos.

"I think it's really good exposure for performing. You gain experience dancing in front of people," said Hall. "I'm looking forward to the performance, and hoping I don't mess up."

"Blood, sweat and tears and a few smiles here and there have gone into the making of this performance," said Leake. "I think the level of commitment and dedication of these dance students far surpasses what I have experienced in over 20 years of teaching."

The tickets to the performance can be bought at the door and will cost \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens and \$3 for children under the age of 12. For more information, contact Leake at Leake@necc.mass.edu.



Sara Codair photo

The modern dance class practices the piece they will perform in the student dance performance on Friday, Nov. 30.

Book brings 'Star Wars' clones to life

BY SARA CODAIR
Arts & Entertainment Editor

When you watched "Attack of the Clones," you probably thought, "How convenient, a clone army." But did you ever think about the clones themselves? Do they want to fight in the war? What happens when the war is over? What happens if they get an injury they can't fully recover from?

If you thought these things while watching the movie or reading the comic books, then you might consider reading a "Republic Commando" book.

"True Colors" by Karen Traviss was the third installment to the "Star Wars Republic Commando" series, and it was not disappointing.

The "Republic Commando" series is perhaps the most powerful of the "Star Wars" series, because it is

easier for people to relate to than that of other books. Instead of having the protagonists be powerful Jedi with mental problems, they are the clone troopers. And they are more human and more mortal than the Skywalkers, Obi-wan Kenobi or Yoda.

Traviss did an amazing job at creating characters that the reader feels bad for. How can you not sympathize with a slave forced to fight a war for the government that enslaves him?

She also made each clone seem very human, and very unique. When reading it, you easily forget that they all look exactly alike.

The plot is very complex, and not written like your average novel. It frequently jumps back and forth from about four or five different characters. It is a very typical for a "Star Wars" novel. This style is effective, and keeps you entertained, but could

become confusing if it is your first time reading a "Star Wars" novel.

There are a few overlapping plots, for each character or group of characters, and they are all tangled up in a web that interlocks with the overall Star Wars plot. It would be very hard to follow if it was the first Star Wars book you ever picked up.

The Protagonists are Delta Squad and Omega Squad. They are clone commandos that have been trained to fight since birth, and are regarded by most of the population only a little higher than the droids.

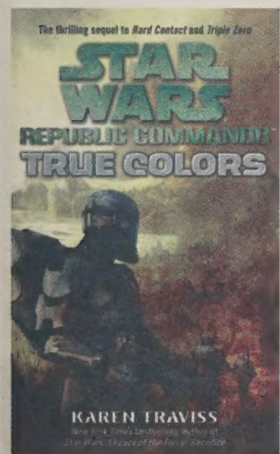
In book two, they went on an undercover antiterrorist operation and got a little taste of what a normal life may be like. Now they are back in the war, but things don't seem as simple as they once did.

As the troopers fight their battles around the galaxy and hunt for Ko

Sai, the geneticist that created them, they discover some disturbing things that shake their loyalty to the Republic.

All the events in this book and the past two are leading up to the fourth and final installment in the series, "Order 66." I look forward to seeing how the clone troopers will react to the fall of the Republic and Jedi, and the rise of the Empire and the Sith.

In addition to being a key piece in the big saga, many events in this book correlate to things that are going on in real life. A war being dragged out longer than necessary, corrupt, lying politicians, terrorists, and a society of people that sit around whining but never actually do anything about and the desire to be part of something are all themes of this book that people can relate to.



Courtesy photo

Smug 'Lions for Lambs' takes aim at apathy

BY ROGER MOORE
The Orlando Sentinel (MCT)

At 71, filmmaker, movie star and activist Robert Redford figures he has at least one more lesson to pass on to the next generation.

But if "Lions for Lambs" tells us anything, it's that he has lost patience with being subtle about it. This sometimes heavy-handed sermon about political apathy among the young, the stakes of media collusion with government and the fog of war is almost certain to scare off the people it is intended to reach.

The title comes from a World War I phrase, that soldiers, "lions,"

were being sent out as cannon fodder by incompetent leaders — "lambs."

"Lions" is a real-time drama with three settings, a blunt political tale about a government of "chicken hawks," the ratings-and-access-starved media kowtowing to it and a college professor (Redford) trying to reach one bright kid who "gave me hope."

In Afghanistan, Army Special Forces are about to implement a new plan to "take the high ground" with small, elite units, cutting off the insurgents before spring melts the snow. They have the technology. They have the troops. They're confident to the point of cocky.

In Washington a senator (Tom Cruise), the smart, arrogant new "face" of the Republican Party, tries to win over a veteran reporter (Meryl Streep) to this new strategy. She was among those who bought into the Iraq invasion rhetoric, so she's a little leery.

And in California, an aged professor (Redford) tries to shake off the cynicism he sees in one smart frat boy (Andrew Garfield) by telling him the story of two bright students (Derek Luke and Michael Pena) who took a stand, took the initiative to change their world, and joined those very Special Forces now headed into harm's way.

Things go wrong in Afghanistan, as they do in war. The senator makes convincing arguments that America needs "a win" in the war on terror, that people need to be convinced to be patient, that there really is an "axis of evil." And the professor and his student hash out, Socratic style, the arguments for just letting the world do what it will without getting involved.

"Rome is burning, son." The battlefield stuff, putting injured soldiers in the snow waiting for rescue, is compelling enough. The rest of the movie veers between genuine debates on the competing visions of American foreign policy and position-paper lectures. Even if

Cruise delivers these GOP talking points rat-a-tat-tat style with the steely-eyes of the true believer, it's still a lecture. The same goes for the professor, who at least admits what he does isn't teaching — it's salesman-ship.

It's well performed and it clips along in its less than 90 minutes. And there may be noble intentions here. But there's a smugness that reverberates through the film, embodied by young Garfield, the face of apathetic, nonvoting youth. That smugness makes it hard to imagine his character, or anybody else in "Lions for Lambs," changing their minds, or the way they use them.

Arts & Entertainment

Students create club for artists

Unofficial art club holds organizational meeting on campus

BY SARA CODAIR
Arts & Entertainment Editor

James Barrile, who is majoring in graphic design and visual arts, was surprised and disappointed when he found out there was no visual art or design club at NECC, so he decided to start one himself.

"I was interested in joining one because I wanted to get to know the other visual arts majors, and was surprised to find we did not have one," said Barrile.

He thinks that it is important for students to get different perspectives on art. He said, "The goal of the club is to be a collaboration in creating opportunities for people in different visual arts disciplines to talk about art and design."

"For me the club has a great purpose. I feel like I could study painting, film, design and many other things. If I did them all, I would be 190 before I ever left here. However, being in this club, I at least get to know people who have done some of those things," said Barrile.

Elizabeth Patterson, a student who attended the club, expressed a similar sentiment. She said, "I don't know if I am a painter or a graphic designer, and I don't know what to focus on."

Barrile hopes the club can help people like Patterson and himself learn more about the different types of art they want to study.

Barrile held an organizational meeting on Monday with a small group of interested students.

At the meeting Barrile and the other students talked about what they hoped the club could be, named it, set goals, and made plans for near future.

They decided that the name of the club is the Art and Design Club.

"We shouldn't have to wait for

portfolio class to start putting stuff together," said Barrile. "The club can act as a bridge between students and other colleges."

The first event the club is hosting is a representative from Mass Art who will speak to students about transferring.

The club does not have funding yet, because it is not yet official. The members have set a goal to be official by the beginning of next semester.

Next week, they will begin working on their constitution and creating posters.

Once their constitution is written, they will apply for official club status with the student senate.

"I talked to Bruce Potter, and he said we may not get funding until next fall, but he looked like he was playing poker when he said it, like he was holding his cards," said Barrile.

In two weeks, the club will host a pier critique from 10 a.m. to noon in Room E-371.

One challenge of starting a new club is getting people involved. Barrile had been expecting 10 to 12 people to show up at this first meeting, but only about seven did, including him.

"Plenty of people say they get involved, but when push comes to shove, there are not that many who actually do," said Barrile.

The unofficial members thought it would be a good idea to talk to other clubs, and find out what it was like for them when they were first getting started.

"It might be good to talk to Contemporary Affairs to see what it takes to get people to come," said Linda Germaine, a student who attended the meeting.

"If we plan things that sound interesting, people will come," said Patterson.

In order to get more people's attention, the members of the Art and Design Club are going to focus on posters.

"I'd like to get a reputation for having really innovative posters," said Barrile. "It would also build



Sara Codair photo

Linda Germaine, Amy Antonucci, Caitlyn Mitchell, James Barrile, Elizabeth Patterson and Amanda Boucher pose after the Art and Design Club's first meeting.

material for our transfer resumes."

"I'm not making a Web site, but I do know of someone who has expressed interest in creating one," said Barrile. He thinks a Web site would be a great way to keep club members up-to-date with information on the club, and on other colleges.

Another objective of the Art and Design Club will be to find a way to display student artwork. Some ideas they came up with were having a show in the library on campus, the Haverhill Public Library or the Student Center, or displaying work in an office.

The goal of the club is to be a collaboration in creating opportunities for people in different visual arts disciplines to talk about art and design.

-James Barrile

'Sweeney Todd': Good play, bad audience

BY JOHN CAREY
Contributing Reporter

We were late. My compatriot and I arrived at the Colonial Theatre in Boston just in time to miss the first three or four musical numbers in this production of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street."

The usher looked bewildered as we approached the double doors before the theater. Apparently the evening's attire was deemed inappropriate. It was made clear by myself that both the tie and sandals were black and white, so I matched, and my dignity was saved.

The set and venue did not match as well as my sandals and tie. The rustic set clashed with the ornate ceiling and chandelier, as well as with the decorative carpeting and wallpaper. It represented a rundown establishment from 19th-century London and proved to be a malleable atmosphere for representing locations and using only actors to alter the set.

After the young gentleman in the seat next to us obliged to cartoon out the first few scenes for us on receipt paper, we were brought up to speed.

The play focuses on the plight of serial killer Sweeney Todd and his accomplice Mrs. Lovett. Todd runs a barbershop above the meat pie shop that is run by Lovett, where the meat from Todd's straight razor victims is converted to material for the pies.

The 19th-century English of revenge is brought to life on stage with a member of the Broadway production, Judy Kane, starring as Mrs. Lovett. The production is spectacular, with each cast member contributing musically to the show, which had no pit orchestra. This meant that the quality of the sound was extremely dependent on the talent of the singers.

The audience did not seem to share my appreciation for the show. Before the actors could finish bowing their heads, the audience was out of their seats and fighting to get out of the theater and to their cars.

The movie version of this production, directed by Tim Burton, will be coming to cinemas in January. Johnny Depp will be starring as Sweeney Todd and Helena Bonham Carter as Mrs. Lovett.

The play was certainly worthwhile and will surely cross over to become a successful and entertaining movie.



MCT Campus photo

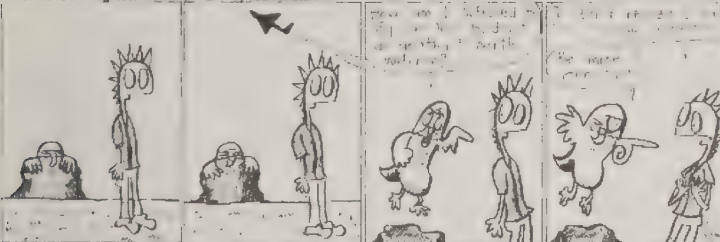
Johnny Depp (Sweeney Todd) and Helena Bonham Carter (Mrs. Lovett) star in the movie version of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street."

Arts & Entertainment

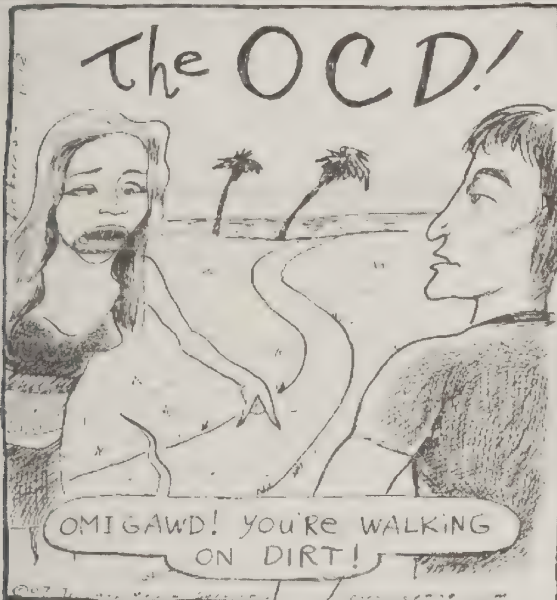
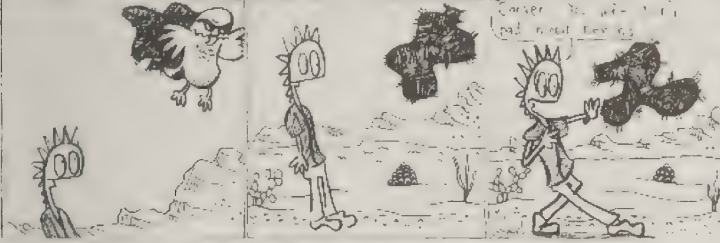
Welcome to Falling Rock National Park by Josh Sholek



Welcome to Falling Rock National Park by Josh Sholek



Welcome to Falling Rock National Park by Josh Sholek



"They're young, they're beautiful and they're extremely clean."



"The wife says I take advantage of people. I said, 'Gimme a break, I'm a PIRATE! It's a cut-throat business!'"

The K CHRONICLES

"What would it take?"

BY KATH KRONST

THEY'VE LIED, CHEATED, STOLEN, NEGLECTED, INVADED, MURDERED, LEAKED, DECEIVED, TORTURED & IGNORED... AND THEY'VE GOTTEN AWAY WITH IT.

WING NUT: "No, they can't do anything to us, dear!"

THE QUESTION IS: WHAT WOULD BUSH & CO. HAVE TO DO TO GET US AMERICANS OFF OUR BOTTOMS TO REMOVE THESE CLOWNS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE?

IN THE PAST, I WOULD'VE SAID "SHOOT AN AMERICAN POINT-BLANK IN THE FACE," BUT THAT'S ALREADY HAPPENED...

SHOOTING AN AMERICAN ISN'T OUTRAGEOUS ENOUGH...

IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A BABY, A WHITE, MIDDLE-TO-UPPER-CLASS AMERICAN BABY SHOT IN THE FACE BY THE PRESIDENT, ON LIVE T.V. TO GET HIM REMOVED.

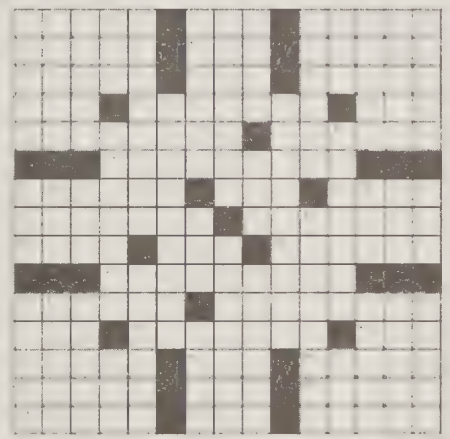
AND IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DURING PRIME-TIME, ON A WEEKDAY, WITH MOST OF AMERICA WATCHING.

AND WE'D HAVE TO ACT BEFORE COUNTER/RUSH O'HANNITY MAKE UP EXCUSES FOR IT.

STILL, NEVER MIS-UNDERESTIMATE THE COMPLACENCY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

Crossword

1. Inland, outdoors
2. Not a good idea
3. Snowy, frosty, cold
4. Unpleasant, cold
5. A way to stay
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50. Unpleasant, cold



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Solutions

1. Tuna
2. Kind of call or pay
3. Perked
4. One who gets by
5. Hissed
6. Simped
7. Unpleasant, cold
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Recycling, the Tooth Fairy, and what it all means

The noble ambitions of do-gooders thwarted by the almighty dollar

BY ANDREW WAHL
Environmental Editor

There are some people who think of recycling like they think of the tooth fairy. When you were 5 or so, you would deposit a tooth you lost under your pillow, and that sneaky little fairy would come and swap it out for a buck or two. With recycling, you put your cans and bottles and paper in these little bins, put it out on the road, and suddenly it's gone.

But seriously, there are more similarities between the two than you would think. First of all, they are both kind of mystical. Why does that little winged thing want your teeth? And why do people want your trash? Maybe it's a little more valuable than trash, but it's still useless to you after you have used it. Right? And where does it go?

But the most notable similarity between the two is that they are taken for granted. When you're a child, you don't know any better. And the same can be said of recycling. You just assume it's there and it's easy, a simple answer. You drink a bottle of water or a can of beer, you eat your pizza, and you throw it in the blue bin, and put it on the curbside on the designated day, and someone comes and gets rid of it for you. That is, of course, if you live in a town or work somewhere that offers such services, i.e. the "blue bin." Otherwise, it's off to the redemption center in your own vehicle.

And that's exactly how the plastic bottles you get from Jitters or the vending machines on campus had been getting recycled until a couple of months ago. If you have been attending NECC for more than a year, you might remember seeing some of those little blue recycling bins located around campus, one in front of Jitters Café in the C Building, one in the Tech Center, and the other two in the Student Center, all specifically for the recycling of plastic bottles, known as commingled recycling. Students from the Community Outreach Group had placed the four bins around campus, in the fall of 2006, but those bins have since been removed. Emptying them and taking the plastics to the local redemption center became a problem, because it was not always getting done, and soon, they were overflowing and becoming an eyesore and sanitary issue.

This bothers Meredith Gunning, philosophy professor and faculty adviser to the COG.

"It's regrettable. We need some help. We need more engaged students for these things, like recycling," she

said. She understands that people have different passions, pursuits and interests in life, and is hoping that people dedicated enough to take it upon themselves will step up to reclaim this role of recycling.

So why can't the school just take care of this? If a few students were taking it upon themselves to do part of the recycling, it's hard to believe that it has to be this tough for the school to carry out a recycling program. But apparently, it's not as simple as just throwing it all in a bin and having someone come pick it up, like you might at your house. It isn't simple because it all comes down to that always-present dollar sign. Recycling is an industry and service that is strictly limited by cost.

Steve Clifford, the Refuse and Recycling Coordinator of the Haverhill Department of Health and Inspection service, has been handling recycling operation for the city of Haverhill for several years now.

"People need to understand the whole realm of recycling and not just think it's good because it's green," Clifford said. "You really need to get down in the belly of it. Understand how to move the product."

And that's the name of the game, for both ends, when it comes to recycling service: moving the product by cost-effective means.

He described the cost and resources necessary for recycling to be moved at an institution, such as NECC, by illustrating the collection, transportation, and disposal of such products as co-mingled by laying it out like this:

"Here's your problem: for someone to pick it up, dispose of its contents, and return the container, you're looking at \$130 to \$140 dollars."

So right off the bat, you see that for a business or institution, you have to pay a private company to drop off a container. And by container, Clifford isn't talking about the little blue ones – he means a 30-cubic-yard steel container that you could fit a couple of cars into. And transporting the container to and from the campus would cost money itself, Clifford said.

"The revenue you would get for that is not close to the transportation cost alone."

And then, in addition to the flat fee for the container, there is also something called a "tipping fee." Clifford explained that the tipping fee is comprised of additional costs such as the combined disposal/collecting of the products and sorting of the stuff being recycled at the centers that the full containers are hauled off to. And from there, it only gets trickier.

When those commingled products are dropped off and then sorted, they are then compacted and bundled

up into bales and shipped off to a processor. Unlike the machines at the grocery store, which pay you for each individual bottle or can that you turn in, the companies that buy and broker the products that have been baled, shipped and processed for reuse, buy the products based on weight. And this is the problem.

"There has always been rumblings of curbside commingled pickup" for the town of Haverhill Clifford said, commenting on the recycling of plastics. "Right now, it's just not a cost-effective means."

Residents of the city of Haverhill have to go to the recycling center, located behind the DPW garage at 500 Primrose St., to drop off their recycling. But there are still limits on what the center will accept.

“People need to understand the whole realm of recycling, and not just think it's good because it's green.”

— Steve Clifford

When it comes to plastics, the city only accepts milk, juice and water jugs, which are classified as "No. 2 natural." This is because of the demand for these products on the reuse market. According to Clifford, the one product that is in constant high demand is paper and cardboard.

The city of Haverhill does offer curbside pickup of paper, and on the city Web site, www.ci.haverhill.ma.us, they illustrate why with a slew of facts pertaining to the recycling of paper product: "Each person in the U.S. uses about 580 lbs. of paper per year. Every 17 lbs of paper that we recycle saves one tree. Recycling the Sunday paper would save 500,000 trees each week. 29 percent of all the wood (1 billion trees) cut from U.S. forests is used for paper."

So, with these few facts, you can see that there is a very big market for the recycling of paper.

But there is one fact listed on the city Web site that really ties into the transport and purchasing sides of recycling, "About 2,000 lbs equals 1 ton of paper." While this may not be an amazing or even very intelligent revelation, it's the basic weight conversions that one needs to pay attention to when it comes to understanding how bulk recycling works. It's a big part of the "belly" of the recycling beast that Clifford spoke of. And it's actually what prevents towns and even NECC from recycling commingled plastics.

The company that buys the processed product pays for it by the ton. At the time of the interview with Clifford, he claimed that the market was paying approximately \$20 dollars a ton for commingled plastics, to the customer. And this is where it all comes together.

Pay attention, because you will now learn why NECC doesn't recy-

cle those plastic bottles you get from Jitters and the vending machines.

Knowing what you do now about contracting a company to drop off one of those 30-cubic-yard steel containers, transportation of the container, the cost of which is approximately \$130 to \$140 dollars alone (excluding the tipping fee), and factor in that not-so-astounding fact that 2,000 pounds equals 1 ton of paper, and then translate it to empty plastic bottles. If the market is only paying \$20 dollars on the ton for commingled plastics, then the school would be losing major money on recycling, since a 30-cubic-yard container would hold nowhere near 1 ton of empty plastic bottles.

Clifford illustrated this hypothetical situation: If the school was to get a 30-cubic-yard container and designate it strictly for the disposal and eventual recycling of empty soda bottles, the school would have to start charging each student who wanted to deposit their empty bottles in the container \$1 dollar to do so.

"Do you think that students would want to keep recycling their bottle if they had to pay a dollar every time?" Clifford asked.

Nope, because that's just a silly idea: a college student paying a dollar to get rid of a plastic bottle when they could just throw it in the trash for free.

However, there are a couple of alternatives that could utilize untapped resources to help the school do its part and contract a company to pick up recycling on campus. David

Hartleb, president of NECC, came up with a couple potentially feasible ideas to get it done.

"One option is to charge students more money in tuition. Or you would either have to cut something, or raise fees," Hartleb said, in a slightly hopeless tone. Not too promising, is it?

Or, as Clifford simply put it, "When the rubber hits the road, it becomes a dollar issue." And he posed this question to sum the problem up: "At what point do I say 'I can't spend the money to get rid of this product?' What do you do when it hits your pocket?"

But it's not like the school doesn't recycle. NECC recycles all paper and cardboard products. That is what one of the big Dumpsters in front of the library parking lot is for. And there are people on campus who are actually recycling the plastic bottles that get tossed in the wastebaskets.

In fact, Clifton Clarke, superintendent of maintenance, said that there is recycling getting done. And who are those people recycling the bottles?

"My janitors do it. They asked me and I said it was OK. At least someone is doing it," Clarke said with a smile.

Yep.

If you like what you see here, and wish to venture further into the bowels of the recycling beast, look for Part 2 of this article in the next issue, of the Observer on Dec. 5, where you will learn what drives the reuse market and its prices, who these companies are, like the one that serves our school for paper and such, and what else they actually do, and how that nice new fleece your wearing was a plastic bottle in its previous life.

CO2 emissions by carmakers

EU's target to reduce average car CO2 emissions to 120g/km dates back to 1995. It has been changed or weakened three times since; now it is 130g/km in 2012.

Carmaker	2006 average CO2 emissions g/km (g/mi.)	Change in emissions since 2005
PSA Peugeot Citroen	142 (227)	-2.7%
Ford	144 (230)	-0.5%
Renault	147 (235)	-0.8%
Toyota	153 (245)	-5.0%
Mercedes	154 (246)	-3.8%
General Motors	157 (251)	-0.3%
Fiat	162 (259)	-0.5%
Suzuki	166 (266)	1.8%
Vauxhall	166 (266)	0.9%
Hyundai	167 (267)	-0.8%
Nissan	168 (268)	-1.6%
Mazda	173 (277)	-2.0%
Volvo	184 (294)	-2.5%
Daimler	188 (301)	2.8%

Source: European Federation for Transport and Environment
Graphic: Zita Giesen, Maren Lynne

Environmental

Bottled water drying up natural aquifers

More people begin to see bottled water as a waste of money and resources

BY SANDY BAUERS
The Philadelphia Inquirer
(MCT)

PHILADELPHIA — Bottled water, once an icon of a healthy lifestyle, has become a pariah, the environmentally incorrect humvee of beverages.

In recent months, dissent over the once innocuous bottle of Aquafina or Dasani has grown from a trickle to a tsunami.

Not just among enviros who decry the 1.5 million barrels of oil used to make a year's worth of bottles. (Plus more to transport it from, in the case of Tasmanian Rain, the end of the earth.)

Not just among pragmatists who cringe at the absurdity of paying \$1.50 for bottled when tap is all but free.

Dreamalee Brotz, a special-education teacher at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., only had to look at her family's water bottles piling up in the recycling bin to reconsider what on earth she was doing.

She bought a refillable Nalgene bottle — the new icon of a healthy "and an environmentally correct

lifestyle.

"I feel better about myself, and I'm saving money."

Throughout the region, tap water is getting a boost from college events and eco-campaigns. At least one restaurant is about to banish bottled water, even as another celebrates it with 42 selections.

Bottled water — a \$10.9 billion-a-year industry in the United States — has even emerged as a moral issue, a peace issue.

"We are called by our faith stance," said Sister Sharon Dillon, a former executive director of the Franciscan Federation in Washington, as she pledged to forgo Deer Park, Poland Spring, and all the others.

For her, it's a matter of equitable access. A billion people worldwide don't have safe drinking water, one in five of them children.

Americans, on the other hand, with near total access, are binging on bottled of every sort, from the handheld variety to the office jugs. We swigged 8.25 billion gallons in 2006 — an average of 28 gallons per person.

Dillon spoke at a teleconference organized by the advocacy group Corporate Accountability International, which sees bottled water as a corporate abuse — the takeover of a natural resource that should belong to everyone.

The group wants people to "Think Outside the Bottle" and, like Dillon, pledge not to drink it.

Canada's Polaris Group, which advocates for social change, wants people to take a closer look at what's "inside the bottle. According to the Beverage Marketing Corp., more than 40 percent is filtered or treated tap water.

Last month, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation requiring water labels to specify the source, beginning in 2009.

The Women's International League of Peace and Freedom has launched a three-year "Save the Water" campaign, on the notion that drinking bottled water encourages privatization, which can lead to wars over water.

In the spring, Food and Water Watch, a nonprofit consumer-rights organization, released a numbers-laden report, "Take Back the Tap, aiming to show why tap water "is better for your health, your pocketbook and the environment."

Taking advantage of the hoopla, American Water Works has launched an ad campaign to plug the value of public water systems nationwide, which require \$300 billion just to maintain the pipes.

The ad pictures a faucet that asks, however improbably, "Do you know how often you turn me on?" Listing myriad other tasks — from laundering to fighting fires — the ad asserts that "only tap water delivers."

The bottled-water industry doesn't see the debate as either-or. Bottled is just often more convenient, said Joe Doss, president of the International Bottled Water Association. Its surveys indicate that 75 percent of people who drink bottled also drink tap.

Doss said campaigns against bottled water could result in less water overall going down the national gullet, a health issue.

He said that the plastic in bottles had gone down 40 percent in five years, and that while some bottles wound up in landfills, they were only a minuscule proportion.

Public officials are acting. In June, the U.S. Conference of Mayors decided to study the impact of bottled water on city waste streams.

Apparently, it's "bottles, bottles, everywhere. The Container Recycling Institute says 86 percent of water bottles — maybe two million tons of plastic a year — wind up as litter or in landfills instead of recycling bins.

Partly because of the glut, states are implementing bottle bills that require deposits on even recyclable plastic. Pennsylvania state Sen. John Rafferty, a Republican, introduced a bill in Pennsylvania in the summer.

San Francisco and perhaps a dozen other cities have canceled purchasing contracts.

Bottled water "very clearly reflects the wasteful and reckless consumerism in this country," Salt

Lake City Mayor Ross C. Anderson said.

Chicago is mulling a tax. New York launched an ad campaign. Louisville, Ky., adopted a mascot — Tapper.

So far, none of this has affected Philadelphia's Water Works restaurant, the nation's largest water bar, owner Michael Karloutsos said.

Its 42 brands come from Norway, New Zealand, Italy, South Africa, Fiji. It is well water, spring-water, rainwater, and the melt of glaciers.

The most pricey: Bling H2O, \$50. "More than a pretty taste," says the manufacturer, it comes from a Tennessee spring, and the bottle is studded with Swarovski crystals.

Water is dubbed the new wine in culinary circles, and each has a distinct flavor, a specific food it complements, Karloutsos said.

He opts out of the debate, saying he's not an eco-expert. While he also offers tap — "Schuyllkill Punch" — nearly eight of 10 customers ask for bottled. Plus, "you don't have to take anybody's keys when he drinks two bottles of water."

Oddly enough, his restaurant sits atop the Fairmount Water Works, a birthplace of Philadelphia tap water.

Now it is an interpretive center, with exhibits including 20-foot "waterfall" made of disposable plastic water bottles — artist Deb Hoy's monument to "the consumerist remnants" of the phenomenon.

Horoscopes

 **ARIES** (March 21-April 20) - Financial planning and ongoing health issues will demand added attention over the next six days. Areas affected are home budgets, property investments and minor stomach ailments. Revised habits or new routines will bring the needed results: don't hesitate to adopt creative programs. After Friday, new friendships and private flirtations are highlighted. Stay focused, however, on established commitments: loved ones will soon require delicate advice and new devotion.

 **TAURUS** (April 21-May 20) - Romantic partnerships will this week require public discussion and revised time commitments. New lovers may be particularly sensitive to flirtation. Remain determined and ask for greater understanding: outside social influences will not derail key relationships. Tuesday through Friday, pay close attention to minor workplace disputes or broken promises from authority figures. Written documents and recorded facts will soon prove invaluable: take time to complete all research.

 **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) - A close friend may this week announce a special job assignment or revised work schedule. Postponed social events may, oddly enough, create valuable opportunities for new friendships. Explore all group invitations and expect cheerful involvement from loved ones. After Wednesday, some Geminis will be asked to adopt controversial work duties. If so, expect only short-term

assignments and watch for key officials to announce unique hiring practices. Remain diplomatic.

 **CANCER** (June 22-July 22) - New colleagues or officials are now highly motivated to expand their social or romantic commitments: after Wednesday, expect overly familiar comments in the workplace or subtle flirtations from co-workers. Stay balanced and watch for normal relations to again be established: this is not the right time to set unclear emotional boundaries. Later this week, a rare financial opportunity may arrive without warning. Investments and shared agreements are accented.

 **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) - Rare emotional triangles may be briefly annoying over the next 6 days. Someone close may this week challenge your dedication to long-term friends or difficult family members. Set firm boundaries and, if possible, avoid complex discussions: before December, loved ones will ask for special favors or probe for private information. Thursday through Saturday accents physical fitness and reclaimed vitality: expect minor digestive or lingering back ailments to quickly fade.

 **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - For many Virgos, this is the right time to cautiously present revised home schedules or creative family solutions to loved ones. Over the next two days, housing or rental disputes will need to be resolved through calm and detailed

planning. Don't hold back: there's much to be accomplished. After Friday, contact isolated friends or distant relatives. A trusted friend or relative may be feeling misunderstood or socially abandoned: your wisdom and support will be greatly appreciated.

 **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) - Over the next few days, physical vitality and sleep patterns may fluctuate. At present many Librans are processing complex unconscious emotions and experiencing minor bouts of anxiety. Remain quietly determined: family history, private expectations and outdated romantic promises may be a central theme. Listen to the inner voice for guidance. Later this week, study financial records for errors. Key officials will soon demand revised numbers and final documents: don't disappoint.

 **SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) - Group assignments, payment schedules or restructured corporate policies will this week create unusual employment strategies. After Monday, expect new routines or partnerships to be quickly adopted and then abandoned. Be patient. Workplace leadership and relations with co-workers will soon return to normal. Wednesday through Saturday, friends and lovers may openly challenge your daily decisions or ongoing commitments. Minor jealousies will soon fade: ask for more time.

 **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) - Business ethics will this week require close scrutiny. Before midweek, study the actions and comments of authority figures for valuable clues. Long-term projects, outdated promises or misinformation may be a underlying concern. Discuss new tactics with colleagues and opt for group negotiations. Later this week, a close friend or relative may reveal their private doubts or social resentments. Listen, observe but refuse to comment: quiet wisdom is the best strategy.

 **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) - Gossip and social speculation are intriguing but unreliable this week. Examine all public comments for validity. At present, colleagues may wish to promote their own self-interests in the workplace or challenge the decisions of authority figures. Remain quietly detached and expect dramatic disagreements: underlying tensions may be high. After Thursday, an unusual romantic proposal may arrive. If so, avoid family discussions and social triangles: much is changing.

 **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) - An older relative or long-term friend may this week reveal private romantic information. A hidden attraction or love triangle may be at issue. Avoid public judgment, if possible, and watch for complex relationships to soon emerge: emotional risk between friends will not improve relations. After Thursday, pay attention to minor workplace comments and rare finan-

cial disclosures. Someone close may publicly discuss job standards or employment ethics: remain detached.

 **PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20) - Creative expression and renewed intimacy are highly favored this week. Some Pisceans may now experience powerful moments of seduction or surprising social proposals. Romantic passions will soon prove fulfilling: remain open to bold discussions and new invitations. Wednesday through Saturday, carefully study long-term business agreements for valuable opportunities. Financial partnerships or revised deadlines will soon offer meaningful rewards: stay open to unusual ideas.

If your birthday is this week ... financial restrictions will fade by the end of December. Watch, however, for close relatives or roommates to propose new investments or large purchases. Newfound money optimism will now trigger several months of home repairs or family expansion. Remain determined: this is the right time to steadily increase home security and offer new commitments in long-term relationships. After mid-January, expect a series of confusing social invitations. Friends or close colleagues may soon compete for your loyalty. Be consistent and set firm boundaries: time is limited. Later this spring, new friendships may quickly turn romantic. Remain cautious and ask detailed questions before taking new emotional risks.

Sports

Celtics are off to best start in years

By **TERRY BALLARD**
Contributing Reporter

Is the Celtics' drought of 21 years without a banner over? Could be. The new-look Celtics seem like they could run with the big guns this season in the NBA.

Paul Pierce, the captain of the Boston Celtics, looks happier than ever before since the organization has brought in talent for him. Thanks to Danny Ainge, on the day of the NBA draft the Celtics looked like a contender.

On that day, Danny Ainge had to make a big decision. Either draft with the fifth overall pick and hope Pierce likes the decision, or trade the pick to Seattle along with Delonte West and Wally Szczerbiak for pick 35 and one of the league's best pure shooters, Ray Allen. Ainge thought long and hard and made the right choice in acquiring Allen. Pierce told the media that getting Ray Allen would make Boston a threat in the East. With the 35th pick, Boston selected the LSU star "Big Baby" Glen Davis.

Not even a week later, Ainge turned the Celtics into a contender with getting Allen, and turned them into a problem for the other NBA teams by making one of the biggest trades in recent years.

Former Celtics star and now Timberwolves executive Kevin McHale were talking for months about a blockbuster trade. It was a trade to help out both teams. The Celtics were looking to win now, while the T-Wolves were look-

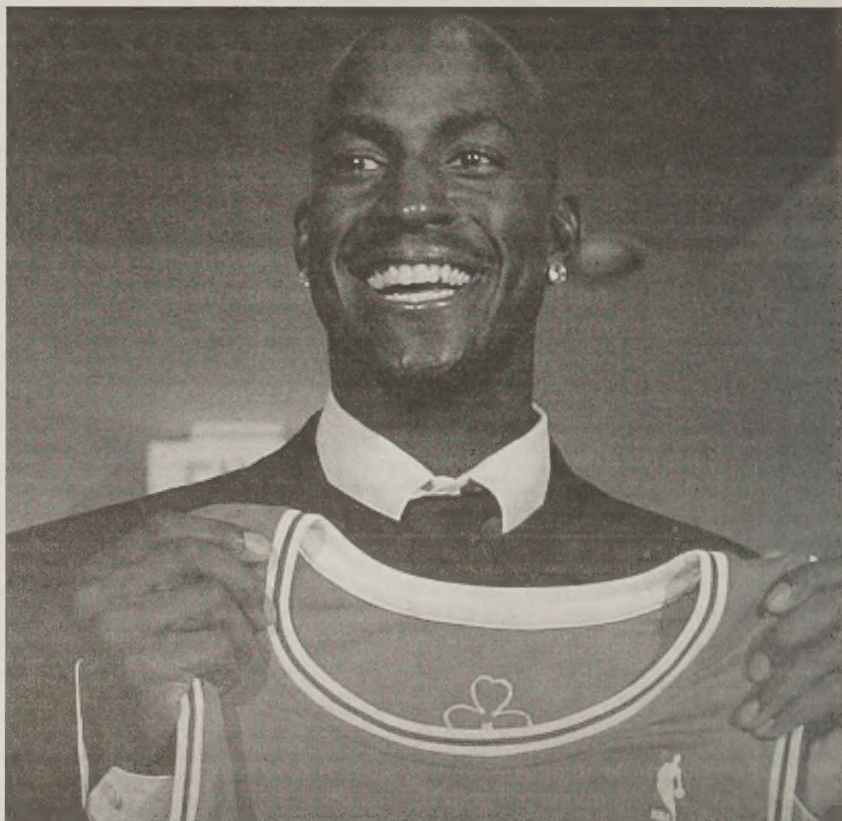
ing to rebuild the franchise. Celtics were interested in getting the "Big Ticket" Kevin Garnett. Earlier, before the NBA draft and the acquiring of Allen, Garnett told the media that he didn't want to become a Celtic, he'd rather be a Mav, Sun, or even a Laker.

Ainge kept pushing. He agreed to throw in the large-contract Theo Ratliff with New York superstar Sebastian Telfair. Those two players were going no matter what. Ainge made some bold moves over those weeks. Allen made Garnett come here into Beantown. With Garnett, Allen and Pierce, the Celtics are a team to make a statement. Those three vets, with a young core around them, could be good now and good in the near future. A week after the draft, Garnett was in Green and White.

The Celtics gave up a great talent of players for the 2004 MVP of the NBA. They gave up Ratliff, who is a great shot blocker. Telfair, who has plenty to learn. Ryan Gomes, who was a great role player for the Celtics in the years he was here. They also gave up the 2006-2007 Slam Dunk Champion and potential all-star Gerald Green.

The biggest guy they gave up for Garnett was "Big" Al Jefferson. He carried the Celtics when Pierce was hurt. He was an everyday 20-plus points and 10-plus rebounds a game type of player. Ainge wasn't looking at the future now — he was looking for a banner for the season of 2007-2008.

With Garnett, Pierce and Allen in Boston, the Celtics could hurt a lot of teams this year. Boston sure does seem like a city to be from if you are a sports fan.



Getty Images

Boston acquired Kevin Garnett from Minnesota in a six-player deal.

Boston has many options going into off-season

By **JAMES HEALEY**
Contributing Reporter

With all the interesting stories that were planned for the off-season of baseball, I decided to post a blog a few days after the Red Sox won the World Series. In it, I posted a few items about the team, its critics, the idea of Alex Rodriguez and his antics, and Mike Lowell. Here is what I think about everything; I hope you share similar thoughts.

Red Sox: First, there are my beloved Red Sox. As I heard earlier on the radio, I am not a "pink hat" Red Sox fan. A "pink hat" fan is based on the phenomenon of the pink Red Sox hats that were marketed by the team. I have always loved the Sox since I knew I loved baseball. I have always been in this area, watched them, and loved the history of this team. I have not been on this Earth a very long time, but I have been here long enough to know the heartache the team had given fans for years. I witnessed it myself in 2003 and to an extent in 2004. But, everything prior to Game 4 of the 2004 ALCS, everything is in the B.S. era. Not the one you're thinking of, but what I read in the Herald a while back: Before Steal, referring to the Dave Roberts stolen base that allowed the Sox to tie the game when they were facing elimination.

I have been a fan of the Sox and baseball since around the age of five. My dad would watch games, explain the game to me, and I would watch along. It was fun and I grew to love the sport. I love to talk baseball with people who hate it, and defend the sport with a passion. If I were to attempt a sport in the near future it would be baseball. I am yearning to

play, but I cannot seem to find a way to play.

Since I have been a fan for so long, the Red Sox winning in '04 was very special. I know I haven't been through what most fans in their 40's-70's have, but I know the history. I knew about the supposed curse, the Impossible Dreams, the Bucky Dents and the Bill Buckners. I know the incident with Grady Little and Aaron Boone imitating Dent. I also know the almost-disaster of 2004.

I sat in my bed in 2004 when Mariano Rivera came in the ninth inning of Game 4. I sat there with hands on my face, watching the Sox being pummeled once again by the Evil Empire. I found myself not wanting to watch, but doing so anyway. I watched as the Sox did the impossible and tie the game and continue playing. I also regret ever admitting that I went to bed one half inning before that amazing home run by David Ortiz because I knew in my heart the Yankees would overcome and win. I was proven wrong the next morning when I found out the news.

After the missed opportunity of Game 4, I resolved to watch Game 5 in its entirety. I also watched Game 6, and finally Game 7. I watched as Boston defeated the Cardinals, and finally broke the curse. Eighty-six years of torment was finally laid to rest. We could finally say we were the champs.

Don't get my wrong, 2007 was amazing as well. We did everything right this year. We won the division for the first time since 1995, around the same time I started following the Sox more closely. They won the division in amazing fashion, taking the lead in April and never turning it over. They swept the Angels again, they were almost crushed by the Indians,

only to show them that we love being on the brink of defeat. Then we swept another World Series (although this one was a lot closer than the scores will show). Two times in four seasons: It doesn't get any sweeter.

Red Sox Critics: Since we won two times in four seasons, there are people who are not happy. I will admit, as a baseball fan, nothing would have been nicer to see the Rockies win their first world title. However, my Boston fan side wanted them to be crushed, which ended up happening. It's that mentality that seems to upset so many people off around the country.

Red Sox Nation: You've heard the term. It's the collective group of fans from this entire country that pledge allegiance to the Red Sox. They live in other states that aren't named Massachusetts, but they still call themselves fans. I cannot tell if all these fans are legit, but most of them certainly are. It still amazes me when I turn on my TV to watch a Sox away game, and see more people cheering the Sox than they are the other team.

But there are still those diehard fans who root for other teams that see what the Sox did this year and dislike us. They start making the excuses to why we are winning and can't admit that this team might just be good.

Most of the excuses are about the payroll. The Red Sox own the second-highest payroll in the MLB, second only to New York. But there is a major difference between how the Yankees and the Red Sox play. If you look at the World Series roster again, you'll notice that a lot of the names on that team and young players. They haven't reached the prime of their career, and most are playing for pocket change when compared to big contracts in the

game. So the payroll and money issue can't really play much of a factor.

It all boils down to jealousy: You got to love it.

"Resign Lowell" and "Don't sign A-Rod": The worst showmanship in the game was displayed during Game 4 of the World Series. Late into the game, a few innings before the Red Sox were crowned champions, it was announced that Alex Rodriguez was becoming a free agent. His agent, Scott Boras, broke the news to an insider, which then ended up being broken on the World Series broadcast.

If you have ever talked to me, you know I am an avid listener of Sports Radio. If you get into my car, you'll see the dial on 850 AM mostly every time. To hear what was said after this happened was funny, but very true.

Boras, for those who don't know, is a super agent in baseball. He is a very good scam artist when it comes to selling players in the game, but he does it with precision. If you are a Sox fan, you can't help but dislike this guy. He does represent a lot of the players on the team, but he also represents Rodriguez.

Rodriguez is the best player in the game today. As a Sox fan and avid Yankee hater, I can't put my bias against the guy when he is doing as well as he is. But, from what he shows on TV and during games, he seems very arrogant. He knows he is that good and he LOVES to show it. Hence the reason you were informed during the World Series that he was becoming a free agent.

You know what this truly shows? That A-Rod really thinks he is better than the World Series. Why else would he and his agent announce this small bit of information when the Red Sox were

the main story? He didn't want to be out of the spotlight, so he forced himself back into it. So when you heard the chants of "Don't sign A-Rod" after the series ended and during the parade, it is a sentiment to how many fans, including myself, feel. We don't want this arrogance on our team; we'd rather have Mike Lowell, the "throw-in" from the Josh Beckett trade.

Mr. MVP: Speaking of the "throw-in," it was very nice to see Lowell win the MVP of the World Series. For those who don't know and were only watching the World Series, Lowell was an added bonus for the Sox when they signed Beckett. The Florida Marlins were willing to dish out Beckett, but only if Lowell went with him; this was done because they didn't want his contract anymore; it was worth too much.

This guy is a class act. Not only did he come in here last year and play, he played well. We filled in that third base role nicely with good defense and average offense. That, however, changed this year when Lowell played like he was on fire. I think it was saying something when Manny Ramirez was out of the lineup, this guy stepped into that cleanup spot perfectly and helped the Sox get into the postseason and win the division. Not only that, but he stayed in the spot until the end of the season, even when Manny came back and started batting second, something Ramirez had never batted in that spot. I think that was saying something.

So, when you heard the A-Rod chants after Game 4 and during the parade, you also heard the advice of Red Sox Nation on who should be at third base. "Resign Lowell" wasn't just a chant — it was a message to the front office. We love this guy as our third baseman, and we want him here. Now,

Sports

College names new Lady Knights coach

Boys basketball team is 4-1 on the season

By JOE TERLIKOSKY
Sports Editor

For the first time in two years, basketball is back. After not fielding a team last year, Northern Essex now has a women's basketball team under new head coach Josh Motroni.

It was just three weeks before the start of the season that the Lady Knights found their new coach. Motroni was an assistant at Emerson College for the last two years, and he brings a positive attitude to the team which now has 11 players on it.

One of the players is Haverhill native Brandi-Badgett Fernandez, who played for the Wildcats as well as Emerson College the last few years.

Motroni is expecting Fernandez to be the point guard. He hopes she can put some points on the board as well as play some solid defense.

Motroni also looks for help at the forward positions with Carolyn Gurrisi and Sara Dubois, who both played at Haverhill High last year.

The team looks for a fresh start after last year when they were unable to have a team due to lack of players.

As for the boys team: The Knights boys are currently 4-1 on the season. The team played well in the Tip-Off Tournament, beating a tough opponent in Mass Bay.

They played them again Nov. 20 at home at 7 p.m. Now they are on a nine-day layoff through Thanksgiving. Their next three games

Knights Upcoming Schedule

Nov. 29	Roxbury	Away
Dec. 1	STCC	Away
Dec. 3	Quinsigmond	Away
Dec. 6	UConn A.P.	Home
Dec. 8	Briarwood	Away
Dec. 11	Bunker Hill	Home
Jan. 12	UConn	Away
Jan. 10	Holyoke	Home

are all away, just a day apart, against Roxbury, Springfield Technical Community College and Quinsigmond.

Boys coach Darren Stratton has to like what he has been seeing the last few weeks. The team is playing well together in practice. The players get along on and off the court, and now their hard work is showing on the floor during games.

The coach of the Knights lost a lot of key players last year and it appears he is making all the right moves this year to give his team

another shot at having another good season, and a deep run in the tournament early next year. There are definitely a lot of bright spots with this Knights team.

After last year when they made it all the way to the regional semifinals, this team has the confidence and talent to make it that far again.

Leadership is what makes this Knights team good, just like last year's. It's clear that they are working hard and are ready for the rest of the season.

Weekly Sports Trivia QUESTIONS:

1. When was the last time a team went undefeated in the NFL?

2. What is the record for TD passes in a season?

3. How many home runs does Barry Bonds currently have ?

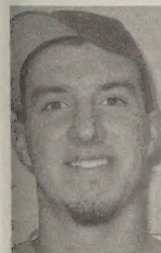
4. How much money did the Yankees sign A-Rod for last week?

5. When was the last time the Celtics started 8-0?

Cross country ends season

Baril was the top runner for the Knights this season

By JOE TERLIKOSKY
Sports Editor



The 2007 cross country season proved to be somewhat of a rebuilding year for the Knights.

The team only had four members but still proved that

they could improve and have a solid overall season.

Chris Baril, Rafael Gilpin, Robert Gray and Ben Primak made up the Knights team. Baril came from Whittier Tech, Gilpin from Greater Lowell, and Gray and Primak both from Haverhill High.

Coach Dawn Caputo had a young and inexperienced team, many of whom had never run five miles competitively. High school

courses are only five kilometers which is only 3.1 miles. In college the distance is five miles, which is a big difference when it comes to how you run your race.

Over the 10-week season, Caputo saw her team make big improvements. None of which were quite as good as Whittier Tech grad Baril.

In the opening race, the Codfish Bowl at Franklin Park in Boston, Baril ran a 35:35 for five miles. Gilpin and Primak ran 37:26 and 37:30 respectively for their first five-mile races. Baril placed 83rd overall in the race.

At the Rhode Island meet, everyone improved and it proved to be the team's favorite course that they raced at during the year. Baril ran 33:51 for 8,000 meters and continued his improvement for the season. Next year, Community College of Rhode Island will be the host of the Nationals meet.

The James Early meet was the first week of October. Again, Baril ran well with running 33:51 for a time. Gilpin and Gray ran 36:01 and 36:20.

The season's highlight was

Baril's top-10 finish, which won him a medal at the New Hampshire Technical Institute Invitational. Chris ran a 29:06, finishing ninth overall for 7,000 meters. This was the best time for a runner this season for the Knights.

The last meet of the year proved to be great one for the three runners who competed in it. Gray did not run because he was sick. Gilpin had his best performance, running two minutes better than his previous time two months ago with 34:28 for five miles.

"He had a great finish," Caputo said of Gilpin.

Baril also had another great race, running a 31:24 and finishing 33rd overall. It was a two-minute improvement from his last race. This performance got him a spot on the NECC's all-time list for five miles.

"I always knew Chris to run faster as the race went on, and always finish strong," Caputo said of Baril.

"It was a fantastic way to end the season, and I was happy to see the improvements we made throughout the season," Caputo said.

ANSWERS:
1. 1972 Dolphins
2. 49, Peyton Manning
3. 762
4. 10 years, \$275 million
5. 1986

Back Page

Thanksgiving is a time for...



Tom Varano

"Thanksgiving means a lot of good food and time with the family."



MCT Campus illustration



Professor Andy Morse

"Thanksgiving means getting together with the family and giving thanks for all your blessings."



Katrina Reardon

"Thanksgiving is a time to spend with the family and eat."



Brenden Buonanno

"Thanksgiving means football, snowboarding season, my crazy family and booze ... oh yeah, and food too!"



Ross Baxter

"Thanksgiving means fighting with the family."



Tyler "T Money" Pagley

Thanksgiving means nothing but lots of food, lots of football and spending time with the family ... and football."



Danielle Rigo-Reilly

"It's a time to spend with my family that I don't get to see very often. Usually we go to Florida but this year I'm spending it with my mom."



Rick Fahey

"Thanksgiving means it's time to be with my family."